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- COMPETITION PAGE 14
- LETTERS PAGES 16-17
- LEISURE PAGES 20-26
- PROPERTY PAGES 27-32
- MOTORS PAGES 33-37

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Picture: Rick Knapton

EAGLE EYES COUNTY SHOW

The Hawking Centre from Leeds Castle put on popular displays during the Kent Show last weekend. Handler Leigh Holmes brought birds of prey kept at the historic castle in Hollingbourne to the three-day event at the County Showground in Detling Hill.

A peregrine falcon, hawk, eagle and owl took part in two displays on each day of the show - wowing the large crowds with their precision acrobatics. **FULL STORY AND PICTURES ON PAGES 8-9.**

EXCLUSIVE

BY LAUREN MUMFORD

COUNCIL chiefs have admitted the dramatic increase in fuel costs will be reflected in council tax levels in future years – if they are to avoid cutting services.

Maidstone council's chief finance officer, Derek Williamson, said the fuel price hike "will play a key part when the council set future budgets and council tax levels."

This announcement comes just a week after The Local Government Association released figures showing the fuel bill for councils in England and Wales has increased from £541 million two years ago, to £780 million for 2008-9, resulting in councils across the country cutting services.

But officials at Maidstone council say they are using money available in its current budget to prevent this happening in the county town.

Mr Williamson said: "Rising fuel bills will inevitably affect the council's current cost base, but we will be looking to contain these costs within available resources without impacting on services."

As a consequence of the rising costs, some councils in other parts of the country have been dipping into contingency funds amounting to £120,000 to keep them going for this year.

And others have been clubbing together and bulk buying their fuel in order to get the best possible price.

Mr Williamson said: "We are teaming up with other councils. We get our electricity and gas through an energy buying group/partner."

"There are many local authority members in the south of England who, with us, have joined together to obtain the best prices available through

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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TOP TV CLIPS



1 At the County Show with Yourkenttv's Julie Maddocks. See the community channel, search 'County Show'



2 Business Editor Tony Patey looks ahead as the credit crunch bites deeper. See the community channel, search 'Tony'



3 Myleene Klass was in Dover as godmother to the luxury liner Carnival Splendor. See the community channel, search 'Klass'

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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Widdy defends 'yes' vote over MP wage rise

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

ANN Widdecombe voted for a pay rise for MPs even though she already earns nearly £400,000 a year.

The Conservative Maidstone and Weald MP was in favour of increasing her salary from £61,820 to £64,634 during a vote at the House of Commons on July 3.

But the majority of MPs voted against the pay rise, which if passed would have increased their salaries by an annual percentage and by an additional £650 in 2009 and 2010.

The former Shadow Home Secretary also voted to keep a £23,000 cost allowance for MPs to buy furniture, household goods and make home improvements with taxpayers' money.

This proposal was won by 28 votes during the session of Parliament.

Recommended

Miss Widdecombe yesterday defended her decision to vote for the pay rise, saying it was in line with what the senior salaries review body and an independent report had recommended.

She said because of the economic situation at present, the majority of MPs had chosen to delay the pay rises by a year.

The MP said: "We never give ourselves what is recommended, we tried to delay that one by a year. We have been trying to find a way of not voting for our own pay rises for a long time."

"When I was first here we had a formula which was automatic, which linked us to 80 per cent of grade six of the civil service."

"That grade was subsequently abolished, we then went on to an automatic formula with inflation, then, as with every other public body, had a pay review at some stage."

"And ever since then we've been having these silly votes every year. Of course we don't want to vote on our own pay rises."

Miss Widdecombe, who will be standing down from her position as MP for Maidstone and the Weald at



I'M WORTH IT: Anne Widdecombe voted for rise in MPs salaries and to retain expenses allowance

the next General Election, is reported to have earned about £220,000 this year for her media work and speeches, and received a £100,000 advance for her third and fourth novels, as well as the £60,000 salary for being an MP.

She has attended Parliament to cast her vote on issues such as the smoking ban, ID cards, the introduction of foundation hospitals, gay rights and anti-terrorism laws.

But during the last 11 years, Miss Widdecombe has supported her constituency fewer times in Parliament.

From 1997 to 2001 she attended 56 per cent of parliamentary votes, from 2001 to 2005 she was present for 51 per cent and from 2005 to now her attendance has dropped to 48.6 per cent.

Miss Widdecombe said: "There is a difference in the pattern of Government voting and opposition voting because Government people vote on every single vote and in the opposition we only take a view on our own amendments and our own motions."

"There is a command to abstain quite a lot of the time. So there is always a drop. It always happens, it's automatic. That is just a fact of life."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Police question man over fatal car crash

A MAN was arrested for dangerous driving following a collision which led to the death of a 75-year-old man.

The 24-year-old was arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving after the incident in Cumberland Avenue, Maidstone, on June 26.

The man, from Maidstone, was released on police bail to return to Maidstone police station on September 8 to find out if a decision to prosecute has been reached.

Army vehicles roll in for extravaganza

MEAN green machines will roll through the Kent countryside this morning as part of the world's largest military extravaganza.

Hundreds of artefacts ranging from buttons and uniforms, to guns and tanks, will be on display at the War and Peace Show at The Hop Farm in Paddock Wood from today until Sunday.

Now in its 26th year, visitors will be able to enjoy big band music, jazz and jive dancing.

Hollyoaks' star Jake to climb beanstalk

TV star Jake Hendriks has been unveiled as the star of this year's Hazlitt Arts Centre panto.

The actor, best known as Father Kieron Hobbs in Channel 4 teen soap Hollyoaks, will take the starring role of Jack in the production of Jack and the Beanstalk from November 29 to January 4.

Tickets can be bought at a reduced rate until October.

Call 01622 758611 or visit www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk for more information.

A happy ending as burns soldier weds

A SOLDIER who was left with devastating burns after an ambush in Afghanistan has married his fiancée at a zoo.

Lance Corporal Martyn Compton, 24, from Staplehurst, suffered third-degree burns to 70 per cent of his body and a gunshot wound to his leg in the attack in 2006.

But at the weekend, Mr Compton wed fiancée Michelle, 27, at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Ashford, and they are now enjoying their honeymoon.

Park's heritage is worth preserving

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

MOTE Park has been described as "threatened" in a new list designed to protect heritage sites across the country.

English Heritage has completed the first phase of an initiative which identifies urban and rural sites that could be at risk of being neglected, changed inappropriately or left to decay.

And Mote Park, which is owned and managed by Maidstone council, has been named as one of 12 places that are classed as a "high risk area".

The protection agency hopes that the Heritage at Risk register, which was revealed last Tuesday, will encourage people to act before it is too late and help save the best of the past for the future.

Cllr Brian Moss, the borough's cabinet member for leisure and culture, welcomed the initiative. "Mote Park is hugely important as a historic site and attractive parkland in an urban environment," he said.

"The council is applying for a £2 million lottery grant to improve public access and facilities within the park.

"There is much work that needs doing as the park has been somewhat neglected and has suffered from inappropriate tree planting, which has restricted some of the fantastic vistas which were within the park's original design.

"Increasing public access moves forward the council's objective of promoting healthy living and will help to preserve this magnificent asset for future generations."

The English Heritage list makes England the only country in Europe to have comprehensive



AT RISK: Mote Park is still a magnificent asset to the county town despite years of neglect

knowledge of the state of its protected sites. South East regional director Dr Andy Brown said: "Mote Park is a fine example of 19th century estate landscape which is at risk owing to a lack of coordinated management.

"However, over the last year Maidstone council has made great progress towards improving what is one of Maidstone's greatest assets.

"Mote Park House and its walled garden are

being restored. I very much hope that with continued leadership from the council, the future of the parkland itself can also be assured."

Mote Park is a Grade II listed site covering 200 hectares which requires a high standard of management to conserve and maintain its historic landscape and leisure potential.

To find out more about the Heritage at Risk project, visit www.english-heritage.org.uk.

Crack house is closed down

A TENANT has been banned from returning to his home after evidence was found that his flat was involved in drug activity and antisocial behaviour.

The home, in Willington Street, Maidstone, has been shut for three months under a closure order, after extensive work by Maidstone Housing Trust and the police.

The court order was issued last Tuesday and bans anyone, including the tenant, from returning to the property. The flat has now been boarded up.

The order came as a result of a police operation which saw officers raid 40 addresses and arrest 32 people in a crackdown on the supply network of Class A drugs in the county town.

Insp Adam Jones said: "This closure not only stops drugs being sold at this address, but also puts an end to the frequent visitors to the property and the associated anti-social behaviour, which was causing misery for neighbouring residents."

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Funny goings-on during Mighty Boosh Festival at Paddock Wood

Councils in drive to cut fuel costs

FROM FRONT PAGE
this partnership."

The council is also encouraging car sharing and has pool bikes to use around town, and fuel-efficient pool cars for further afield, in a bid to reduce the amount of fuel being used.

Members of councils across the country are also calling for all vehicles run by the local authorities, such as refuse lorries, to be exempt from fuel duty because they feel it's "crazy" they have to pay so much tax for something that is beyond their control.

At a press conference last week, Chancellor Alistair Darling, despite saying he would "look again at the fuel duty increase" due in October, said the suggested exemption for council vehicles is unlikely to go very far.

Mr Darling said: "As far as local authorities are concerned, the amount of money we've given them over the last few years has been increasing and like everyone else they need to make sure they anticipate the bills they've got to meet, whether energy or otherwise, and they need to deal with that."

Ahoy there! Get aboard for river festival revelry

THOUSANDS of revellers are expected to flock to the county town next weekend for the 29th Maidstone River Festival.

The spectacular festival on Saturday, July 26, will include art workshops, a mad hatter's tea party, face painting, live music, a fairground and dance performances.

But the centrepiece will be the boats lining the River Medway, many decorated on a theme and with their owners competing for the coveted best-dressed boat title.

Council leader Cllr Chris Garland will attend to show his support after the future of the river festival was safeguarded for the next two years by a £20,000 cash injection from Maidstone council.

Cllr Garland said: "The festival

committee has done a fantastic job in organising this event and we look forward to this year being bigger and better.

"The Medway comes to life over river festival weekend. This is a chance for Maidstone people to really enjoy their river, which we can all too often take for granted."

Mayor of Maidstone Cllr Denise Joy will officially open the festivities, accompanied by festival chairman David Knight. Other festival highlights include a raft race, illuminated boat display and, at the end of the afternoon, the best-dressed boat will be revealed, followed shortly afterwards by the declaration of the results of the raft race.

The festival will finish with a spectacular fireworks display.



SUPPORT: Council leader Chris Garland

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Jogger attacked on morning run in park

POLICE are seeking witnesses after a 19-year-old man was assaulted as he jogged through a busy park.

The incident took place at Mote Park in Maidstone last Monday, between 5pm and 6pm, as the victim ran past two Asian men in a wooded area near the lake.

One of the men asked the victim for a cigarette. When he said he didn't have any he was attacked by both men, sustaining cuts to the hand and back of his leg.

Air views to police at shopping centre forum

KENT Police Authority will visit leading shopping centres during the next month to find out the issues concerning consumers.

The regulatory body for the police force wants to hear about problems like anti-social behaviour during roadshows on July 28, from 11am and 3pm, at The Mall Chequers in Maidstone, Asda and Kings Hill on August 15 between 11am and 4pm, and Bluewater on July 29 from 10am to 3pm.

All that glitters is Gould at history books display

A COLLECTION of natural history books will take centre-stage to mark Maidstone Museum's 150th birthday.

The 'Gould' books, which are the third object in the spotlight at the museum, is a collection of 41 large illustrated volumes of work with 3,000 colour plates that rank among the world's finest natural history books.

John Gould was a self-taught ornithologist who was born in 1804, his wife, a talented artist and lithographer, helped him with the artwork for his books.

Seek out the spooks in a night at the museum

THE UK's leading ghost hunting specialists have teamed up with a museum for a night of gathering ghouls and seeking spooks.

The Museum of Kent Life is holding a ghost hunt with a team of Fright Nights paranormal investigators on Friday, July 25, from 9pm to 5am the following morning.

After success of previous Fright Nights ghost hunts, the haunted museum is offering the public another chance to experience the ghostly going-on for themselves.

Poor new home sales to cost 1,200 Barrett staff their jobs

Credit crunch takes toll on building giant

BY LAUREN MUMFORD

ONE of the UK's biggest house builders has announced it is cutting 1,200 jobs due to the impact of the credit crunch.

Barrett plans to close two departments and merge other parts of its business in a bid to recover money lost after a sharp drop in the number of people buying new homes.

The company, which employs 6,700 staff, has new housing developments in Leybourne Park in Bellingham Way, Aylesford, in Ditton and on the riverfront in Hart Street, Maidstone.

Challenging

Barrett group chief executive, Mark Clare, said: "By enhancing our sales capability, reducing our costs and agreeing a new financial package, we have now substantially improved our competitive position and are better placed to deal with what will be a challenging period."

Head of external affairs, Dan Bridgett, told Yourmaidstone he was unable to comment on whether the company had any loss of earnings from its developments in Maidstone.

But he did reveal total sale completions fell by 13.8 per cent in the year to June, compared with 2007, and completions for private homes fell by 18.4 per cent.

Average sales rates to private buyers have fallen



REDUNDANCIES: Barrett is to close two departments and merge parts of its business after a sharp fall in new homes sales

by 43 per cent year-on-year in the past six months.

The company has also had to extend its £400 million debt facility, which was supposed to be paid next April, but after talks with its lenders it can now be paid in July 2011 to give the developers extra breathing space to pay back the debt.

Barrett is expecting housing production to hit a 50-year low in 2008 and has agreed a new deal with its banks to reduce the chance of breaching its debt contracts.

This announcement comes just days after the British Chambers of Commerce predicted the UK could be hit by a recession within three months, following a survey of almost 5,000 businesses which have seen a number of redundancies and a loss of earnings over the last few months.

This country has not been faced with a recession since the early 1990s.

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Sprinkler system a life-saver

A GRANT will allow the fire service to install life-saving sprinkler systems in homes in the county town as part of a new campaign to protect vulnerable people.

Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority has received a government grant of £255,000 to promote the use of sprinklers and to fund putting them into homes.

People to benefit include the elderly, people with learning or physical disabilities, mental illness, or alcohol or drug abuse problems.

As part of the Safer with Sprinklers campaign, the fire service has teamed up with the Maidstone Housing Trust, contributing £21,000 towards a system at Lenham House.

The 19-unit sheltered housing property is undergoing a £600,000 refurbishment programme.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service's area

director for community safety, Steve Griffiths, said: "One of our main aims is to reduce the number of accidental fire deaths and injuries, and sprinkler systems in the homes of those most at risk are a vital step towards achieving this."

"Maidstone Housing Trust has set an excellent example in demonstrating the freedom and flexibility sprinklers provide. We encourage other property owners to follow them and contact us on how we can help."

Rose Ellison, from Maidstone Housing Trust, said working with KFRS means residents at Lenham House have state-of-the-art safety equipment installed, giving them greater peace of mind.

The trust is carrying out a refurbishment programme at Lenham House, creating self-contained flats while removing shared bathrooms.



SAFETY: Fire service and housing trust have joined to fund installation of sprinkler system at Lenham House

This is part of a wider programme of investment in sheltered housing schemes across Maidstone.

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BEAUTIES: Over 50 horses will be taking part in competitions during the show at the Museum of Kent Life

Shire horses to work their way into our hearts

THE UK's largest collection of shire horses will battle it out for a championship cup during a grand working horse show this weekend.

The Museum of Kent Life will have more than 50 shire and working horses on site on Saturday and Sunday, when the public will be able to see the animals displaying their working and showing skills to compete for the champion's title.

The horses, which are all part of the South East Shire Horse Association, will be at the museum for the first time in its history.

Museum director John Jordan said he is extremely excited and honoured that the association has brought its show to the Museum of Kent Life.

He said: "It's going to be a fantastic event, on the Saturday they will be showing some of the things they used to do when they were used as working horses."

"It will be great for the children because they will be able to learn about their heritage, which is really important."

"On the Sunday the horses will be in the show competing against each other in a

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

number of categories. We also have our very own shire horse here at the museum, her name is Bella and she is staying here now she has retired."

Bella, who is amongst the last of a fast disappearing group of horses that worked in Kent farms, is a black shire, with three thick white socks, feathered feet, and spent 17 years of her life working.

Mr Jordan said: "These shires were bred from the war horses of medieval knights and they are as much part of our heritage as Oast Houses and Hop Gardens."

The museum will encourage and stimulate Bella with light work so she doesn't get bored, and wants volunteers to help look after her as a groom.

Amanda Clements, of the museum livestock office, said: "She looked so happy and pranced about like a youngster when she saw the meadow, which will be her retirement home."

"She will be an excellent companion for Nettie, the museum's other retired horse."

For more details call 01622 763936 or see www.kentmuseum.co.uk.

Celebration is more than a competition

THE largest collection of shire horses in Kent will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the South Eastern Shire Horse Association.

More than 50 horses will be at the Museum of Kent Life this weekend displaying their working and showing skills, and competing for the Supreme Championship Cup.

President Gerry Winter, chairman Graham Bourmes and museum director John Jordan took the time to speak to Yourmaidstone about the event, the history of shire horses and the role of the Shire Horse Association.

See community channel, search 'Shire'.

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yourmaidstone NEWS IN BRIEF

Park to host a festival of great music to tempt you

TRIBUTE bands, a symphony orchestra and a primary school choir are on the bill for two special outdoor concerts this weekend.

Magic, a kind of queen, and Abba Magic, will be playing at Snodland Festival's Potyns Park on Saturday, with the City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra performing its first outdoor concert at Proms in the Park the following day.

The choirs of the Church of England and St Katherine's primary schools in Snodland will also be singing at the proms night.

The weekend has been organised by Town Talk, the quarterly magazine published by the Chamber of Commerce.

Magazine editor Mel Rayfield said: "We've been inundated with requests for another Picnic in the Park and the symphony orchestra proved tremendously popular with its classical spectacular last year, so we decided to arrange the two on the same weekend."

Tickets are on sale at Hicks Estate Agents, 30 High Street, in Snodland, or by calling 01634 246039.

Funeral tomorrow for cyclist in road accident

THE devastated family of cyclist Mark Titus have paid tribute to the "devoted father".

In a statement the family said: "He was a devoted father to his eight-year-old daughter Katie."

"Mark was one of the last postal cadets to be recruited. He worked with the Post Office for 19 years."

Mr Titus died in Lidsing Road, Boxley, on Wednesday, July 2, suffering fatal injuries in the collision.

His funeral will take place tomorrow at Medway Crematorium on Blue Bell Hill, from 3pm, with donations to be made to Demelza House Children's Hospice.

Children plan ahead with cultural parade of work

SCHOOL children paraded through the town centre with art work they have created for a popular cultural festival.

The launch of the sixth Maidstone Mela took place on Thursday with 148 pupils from Archbishop Courtenay, St Francis and St Michael's primary schools turning the town centre into a sea of vibrant colour.

The Mela, which is being held on Sunda, September 14, in Mote Park, is organised in partnership by Maidstone council and the North West Kent Racial Equality Council.

For details see www.maidstone-mela.org.

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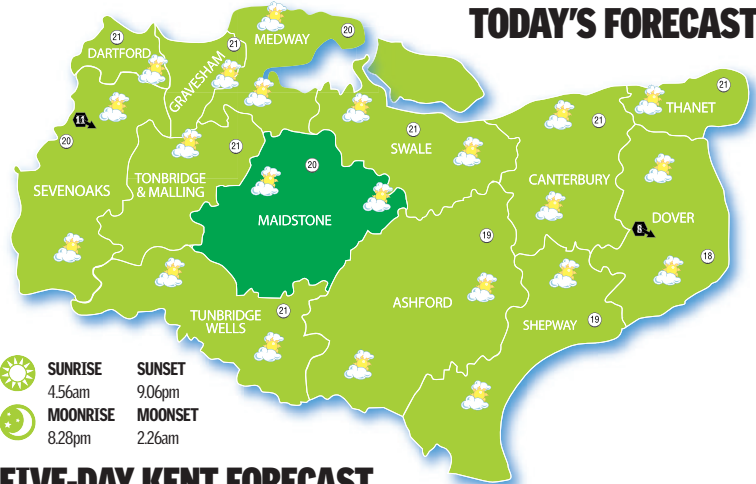
WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	1:13pm	5.5m
	Sunday	1:51pm	5.6m
Dover	Saturday	11:36am	6.0m
	Sunday	12:11pm	6.2m
Dungeness	Saturday	11:27am	6.8m
	Sunday	12:06pm	7.0m
Ramsgate	Saturday	12:06pm	4.6m
	Sunday	12:41pm	4.7m
Sheerness	Saturday	1:03pm	5.3m
	Sunday	1:41pm	5.4m
Whitstable	Saturday	1:04pm	5.0m
	Sunday	1:41pm	5.1m



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	22°C	Madrid	29°C
Athens	33°C	New York	28°C
Barcelona	23°C	Paris	22°C
Beijing	26°C	Rome	26°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	18°C
Cape Town	18°C	Tenerife	25°C
Cardiff	18°C	Tokyo	32°C
Gibraltar	25°C	Vancouver	21°C
Hong Kong	31°C	Warsaw	16°C
Las Palmas	25°C	Wellington	13°C



SUNRISE 4.56am
SUNSET 9.06pm
MOONRISE 8.28pm
MOONSET 2.26am

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	23°C	20°C	18°C	19°C	19°C	Gravesend	24°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C
Canterbury	23°C	20°C	18°C	19°C	19°C	Maidstone	24°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C
Chatham	23°C	20°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	Ramsgate	23°C	20°C	18°C	19°C	19°C
Dartford	24°C	21°C	19°C	20°C	20°C	Rochester	23°C	20°C	18°C	18°C	19°C
Dover	19°C	18°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	Sevenoaks	22°C	19°C	17°C	18°C	18°C
Faversham	23°C	20°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	Sittingbourne	23°C	20°C	18°C	18°C	19°C
Folkestone	19°C	18°C	16°C	17°C	17°C	Tonbridge	23°C	20°C	18°C	19°C	19°C
Gillingham	23°C	20°C	18°C	18°C	19°C	Tun Wells	23°C	20°C	18°C	19°C	19°C

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Old car owners make wheel charity effort

VINTAGE car owners will display their vehicles at a special show to raise money for people suffering from cancer.

The collection of post-war cars being shown by the NSU Owners' Club will be at The Friars in Aylesford from Thursday, July 24 to Sunday, July 27, in an attempt to drive in much needed funds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

During the show people will be able to see a wide range of vintage cars, as well as being able to purchase NSU car, motorbike and moped parts, polo shirts and cuddly teddy bears.

Baton twirlers, a disco and live music have also been organised to keep guests entertained over the weekend.

Event organiser Rosie Canning said: "The event is for people with an interest in cars or people who are just nosy."

"This is probably the last year this event will run, so it is a final opportunity for people."

"We want to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, as we know their work and they have touched the lives of so many people."

Entrance is £5 for the day, £12 for a night camping or £40 to camp for the entire event.

Children go free and all profits from sales go straight to Macmillan Cancer Support.

• For more information please go to www.nsuoc.co.uk.

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All the fun of the fair



MORE than 100,000 people flocked to the Kent Show last weekend – leaving the organisers struggling to cope.

Thousands of motorists were left fuming as they sat in queues of traffic for up to two hours to get into the County Showground in Detling Hill on Sunday.

The show's general manager, David Goff, admitted they had been a victim of their own success – and had underestimated the number of families attending the last day of the three-day event.

He put the congestion down to a system of temporary traffic lights and road works implemented to block off U-turn junctions.

Mr Goff said: "When you have a system, you have to run with it. We had a lot of people here over the weekend and a lot more on Sunday than we thought."

But the show itself, now in its 79th year, was a huge success – with the Dancing Diggers, show-jumping and a giant walking robot among the highlights.

There were more than 900 stalls across the 250-acre site and a selection of sheep, cows, goats and horses battling to win prizes.

**WORDS BY LAUREN MUMFORD
AND JAMES ALEXANDRE
PICTURES BY IGOR KUPCO**

The only concern was when a member of an army parachute display team had to be taken to hospital with back injuries after being blown off course in gusting winds on Friday.

The parachutist was part of The Princess of Wales Royal Regiment's The Tigers, who are renowned for their acrobatic displays at events nationwide – he has been recovering at Maidstone hospital.

Fund-raisers from Demelza House Children's Hospice in Bobbing had thousands of visitors flock to their stall, which offered children face-painting and a life-size Tardis and Dalek from TV show Doctor Who to be photographed next to.

Youngsters could also enter a prize draw for a BMX bike in celebration of the 10th birthday of the hospice for terminally ill children.

Demelza area fund-raising manager Donna Wells said: "This event is really important for us because it attracts so many people county-wide who may not know about Demelza



POPULAR: There were so many entertainments on offer at the show that organisers were overwhelmed by visitor numbers

House and the families that it serves in Kent."

Leigh Holmes, of the Hawking Centre at Leeds Castle, put on a display of birds of prey at the show.

He said: "It's just really nice to get out and show to loads of different people. I like the countryside area of the ground – you've got reindeer and gundogs, as well as falconry."

"It's quintessentially English, which I like."

Kent Scouts were also out in force, with about 50 volunteers promoting the work of the organisation across the county.

Jane Town, adult development officer, said: "We're here to promote Scouting and make

sure people know what it's all about, which is a whole variety of things."

The Kent Youth Trials Club had riders demonstrating their skills on a dedicated dirt track, complete with obstacles at the entrance to the heritage area.

One of its star protégés is seven-year-old Ieuan Jones, from Ashford, who has only been riding for ten months.

Dad Tony said: "He loves it – every weekend he's out on the bike, he absolutely adores it and spends a couple of days of just solid riding. He's in his element."

One of the main attractions was the dancing diggers display. Comprising five JCB 3CX diggers and one Bobcat mini-loader, the stunt team from Diggerland in Strood wowed the crowds with versatile formations such as leaning on their sides at 90 degrees and performing dare-devil wheelie stunts.

Team captain Lee Cooper, who has been involved with the team for the past 23 years, describes their routine as "synchronised swimming with diggers".

He said: "It's the first time we've been back here for about 12 years. We do all of the big county shows all over the country and it's good to be at our local one in Kent again."



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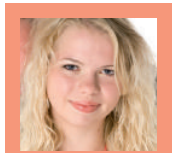


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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

TWO FOR TEE?

Bubbly, outgoing female, 21, blonde, medium build, loves country folk etc, WLTW guy, 21-27, to share fun times with! Box 891190

FANCY GOING DUTCH?

I'm a tall, blonde half-Dutch woman, 27, love swimming, power-walking and music, festivals! Looking for a lovely man with GSOH, for something special! Box 893230

UP FOR LOVE?

Attractive female, very bubbly, 29, 5'4", short hair, blue eyes, up for anything, seeking male 25-45, caring with good personality, kids welcome, for love, Box 442142

TAKE ME OUT

Bubble, 30, fun, friendly, bright, bubbly, little, lovable, bored of being single and looking for a man to keep me smiling! Box 895349

SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE

Bubbly, genuine, honest, caring Mum of 1, 34, dark hair, blue eyes, loves nights in/out, seeking male, 30-40, with GSOH, for love and all. Box 437041

ANIMAL MAGIC!

Single, kind, caring animal lover, 34, from Kent, likes cooking, cinema, theatre, most music, seeks non-smoking male, 34-38, for LTR. Box 440782

R U THE 1?

Outgoing, funny, young-looking female, 34, 5'3", brown hair/eyes, Tonbridge, seeks caring, loyal male for friendship, leading to more. Box 433107

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

ROMANCE IS ALIVE

Divorced, lively mum, 35, GSOH, I enjoy time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty, love and romance. Box 813930

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum of three, 37, fun-loving, great to be around, been hurt in the past, heart has been broken and needs mending. Box 908053

LOVE IS ALL AROUND

Young-looking 40yr old female, 5'5", long hair, single mum, GSOH, WLTW caring, honest, fun-loving male, for LTR. Box 441641

ATTRACTION & SATISFACTION

Hard-working independent female, 41, dark brown hair, brown eyes, GSOH, likes cinema, eating in/out, seeking similar male with no issues for friendship... Box 442205

COULD IT BE YOU?

Hi I'm 44, slim, 5'8", a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800

BLACK MAGIC

Loving black female, 49yr old, slim build, enjoys cooking, dancing and socialising, WLTW a gentle man for a romantic relationship. Box 442049

LOTS OF LOVE TO GIVE

Bubbly, voluptuous, very warm-hearted, tactile woman, 49, looking for that special someone to share cuddles, romantic evening in/out, possible LTR. Box 440879

PET ME

Sincere caring female, 50, 5'2", likes gardening, animals, outdoors, socialising, seeking similar non-smoker with GSOH for friendship, relationship. Box 441981

HOW MANY BOXES CAN YOU TICK?

Young-at-heart, honest, caring female, 50, 5'6", dark brown hair, slim-medium build, enjoys going out, the countryside, sessie, seeking similar reliable male for friendship/more. Box 442126

JUST IMAGINE

Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTW genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562

CARING & PROFESSIONAL

Female 49, 5'4", long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Box 417100

LONELINESS NO MORE!

Maxine, 51, an Arnes, very loving, romantic, have grown-up children, love walks, socialising, seeking similar aged male who wants to stop being alone! Box 440774

LOVELY LADY...

53, fit and healthy, single now for nine years and can't find the right man! If you enjoy sports and love music let's chat! Box 923309

LOVING & HAPPY-GO-LUCKY

Judal, caring female, 51, 5'3", brown hair, hazel eyes, own business, WLTW nice, tall, good looking for laughter, life and love. Box 926614

COAST AND COUNTRY

Hi, I'm a kind female, 52, slim, 5'3", dark hair, I like music, dancing, reading, coast, countryside. Seeking kind, genuine man, 45-60, for LTR. Box 430032

MAKE ME SMILE

Kind-hearted woman, 55, 5'2", short blonde hair, blue eyes, likes conversations, nights out, long walks, WLTW a similar male for fun & friendship, maybe more. Box 890167

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MAKE ME LAUGH, MAKE ME YOURS

Hi there, kind-hearted 57yr old sincere lady, non-smoker, recently separated, seeking kind, honest gent for friendship first and to make me laugh. Box 440637

IN MY SIGHTS

Lovely, curvaceous lady, 57yr old, enjoys visual arts and travelling, WLTW a genuine male, 50-69 for friendship and possibly romance. Box 441382

WALKS ALONG THE COAST

Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

NOT ASKING FOR MUCH

Fun loving, bubbly, tactile lady, 50s, enjoys the good life, holidays and cosy nights in, I'm voluptuous & looking for a real man. Box 903560

SUE BY THE SEA

Shy widow with GSOH, 59, enjoys walks, eating out, music and cooking, looking for friendship and male company. Box 442260

GIVE & TAKE

Happy, contented, well-balanced lady, 55, 5'4", medium build, not ugly! I love the countryside, pets, theatre, dining out. WLTW gentleman with similar lifestyle initially, for friendship. Box 441201

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WOMEN seeking women

GIVE IT A SHOT

Genuine, compassionate female, 21, long dark hair, blue eyes, loves going out, keep-fit, music, WLTW girl to have fun with. Box 442069

GIVE IT A SHOT

Adopted female, 22yr old, enjoys socialising, clubbing, cinema, WLTW similar female for friendship/romance. Box 442149

LIFE IS LAUGHTER

Caring, female, 38, short blonde hair, slim, sporty, likes going out, socialising, good company, enjoys life, WLTW special person, for LTR. Box 402330

HI LADIES

I'm 38, 5'11", average build, like pubs, restaurants, cinema, quiet nights in with chocs and DVDs, seeking kind, happy female with GSOH, for honest relationship. Box 442056

QUALITY TIME

Laid-back, sincere male, 38, 5'11", fair hair green eyes, enjoys travelling, football, family time, seeking easygoing, fun-loving Box 441369

LOTS OF LOVE TO GIVE

Tall and handsome male, 39, dark hair, divorced, WLTW a larger lady, size 14+, 22-32, for a long term relationship. Box 442162

DO WE FIT TOGETHER?

Frank, 41, carpenter, 6'11", very down-to-earth, medium build, nervous! Seeking a female for friendship, companionship, maybe something more with the right person. Box 439853

I CAN MAKE YOU SMILE

Separated father, 61, chef, enjoy good wine and food, walks on the beach, WLTW female for fun and good company. Box 441499

ADAM SEEKS EVE

Divorced dad, 42, enjoys going out, long walks, cooking, seeking bubbly, fun, easygoing lady to spend life with. Box 442228

CAN YOU RESIST?

Fun-loving humorous guy, 43, seeking a nice, genuine, honest and friendly female who is down to earth, energetic and fun! Box 442170

BACK ON THE MARKET!

Caring male, 43yr old, 6'11", slim, enjoys pub and socialising, WLTW a bubbly, charming girl, looks not interested in other guys for fun conversations and dates. Box 442272

ARE YOU THE ONE?

Black British male, 26, enjoys computer games, pubs, baking and keeping fit, WLTW a down to earth lady for friendship, maybe more. Box 442298

SOCIALBE SORT

Good looking male, 27yr old, a big bear, blue eyes, enjoys comedy, music, reading and art, WLTW a lady, age and appearance not important! Box 442174

BURNING DESIRE

Firefighter, 32, 6'11", sporty build, brown hair/blue eyes, likes holidays, travel, the good life, seeking female 28-45, attractive, fun, sexy, for good nights... Box 442204

TO BE WITH YOU

Down-to-earth gentle chap, 34, likes clubbing, walking, going out, socialising, seeking similar female for lasting happiness. Box 442249

ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD

Easygoing male, 33, 5'4", dark hair, blue eyes, likes sport, football, eating out/in, WLTW lady with similar interests, laidback, for like-minded good times. Box 440517

TAKE ON ME

Romantic male, 34, big brown eyes, brown hair, 5'10, love football, mountain-biking, films, pubs, walks, GSOH, seeking a caring lady who's into love and romance... Box 442339

ROMANCE IS ALIVE

Romantic male, 33, 5'9", blue eyes/brown hair, slim-medium build, N/S, likes meals out, art, sports, seeks special female partner, for true happiness. Rochester. Box 388153

SECURITY AND WARMTH

I'm 35, 6'11", have a beautiful 3yr old little girl, very honest, caring, looking for someone to love and make a new life with... Box 896178

ACCOMPANY ME

Medium build male, 36, enjoys films, music, playing pool, keeping fit, WLTW a female to wine and dine and woo. Box 442280

REAL MAN

Honest, kind, caring male, 37, blond, 6'11", enjoys walks, cinema, nights in/out, family life, WLTW like-minded, genuine female. Sarah, please call again, leave contact details! Box 430440

LOVE ME DO

Hi, I'm 38yrs old & fun, friendly & reliable, looking for friendship to start with, possibly of a relationship. Box 442309

HI LADIES

I'm 38, 5'11", average build, like pubs, restaurants, cinema, quiet nights in with chocs and DVDs, seeking kind, happy female with GSOH, for honest relationship. Box 442056

QUALITY TIME

Laid-back, sincere male, 38, 5'11", fair hair green eyes, enjoys travelling, football, family time, seeking easygoing, fun-loving Box 441369

LOTS OF LOVE TO GIVE

Tall and handsome male, 39, dark hair, divorced, WLTW a larger lady, size 14+, 22-32, for a long term relationship. Box 442162

DO WE FIT TOGETHER?

Frank, 41, carpenter, 6'11", very down-to-earth, medium build, nervous! Seeking a female for friendship, companionship, maybe something more with the right person. Box 439853

I CAN MAKE YOU SMILE

Separated father, 61, chef, enjoy good wine and food, walks on the beach, WLTW female for fun and good company. Box 441499

ADAM SEEKS EVE

Divorced dad, 42, enjoys going out, long walks, cooking, seeking bubbly, fun, easygoing lady to spend life with. Box 442228

CAN YOU RESIST?

Fun-loving humorous guy, 43, seeking a nice, genuine, honest and friendly female who is down to earth, energetic and fun! Box 442170

BACK ON THE MARKET!

Caring male, 43yr old, 6'11", slim, enjoys pub and socialising, WLTW a bubbly, charming girl, looks not interested in other guys for fun conversations and dates. Box 442272

TLC + LTR

Genuine, reliable male, 43, likes the pub and gardening, WLTW similar lady for a long-term relationship. Box 441595

LOVE IN THE STARS

Genuine, reliable male, 43, likes pubs, days out, nights in/out, watching films, good-looking, seeking curvy female 29-48 for mutual love & happiness. Box 442108

GIVE IT A SHOT

Generous, considerate, caring white male, 43, hard-working, 5'7", medium build, enjoys night out, fun surroundings, seeking like-minded female to build romantic future and LTR with. Box 890290

CRAZY FOR YOU

Attractive, considerate man, 42, enjoys quiet nights in, socialising, movies, meals, the odd dance, seeks special lady to take out, a soulmate. Box 442191

BIG DEAL IN DEAL

Warm, tactile male, 42, 6'11", likes socialising, pubs, coasts, cosy nights in, seeks like minded female for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967

JOIN ME, COMPLETE US

Young-looking 44yr old white male, seeking LTR with a slim, attractive, tall African lady with long hair or braids. 20-40. Box 442185

SNOGS & CUDDLES PLEASE

Shy but outgoing 46yr old male with GSOH and outgoing nature, seeking a lovely like-minded lady for cuddles and snogs. Box 437535

SOMEONE TO SHARE LOVE WITH

Kind, considerate, caring, honest guy, 47, 6'11", hazel eyes, brown eyes, medium build, like football, swimming, reading, driving, seeking caring female to share life with! Box 892531

PASSION FLOWER

Slim, single Scorpio male, 49, intelligent, caring with a wicked S.O.H., considerate, honest, passionate guy looking for a similar woman. Box 892156

AS GOOD AS IT GETS

Honest, reliable male, 50, 6'11", blue eyes, no lies, likes tv, music, drinks in/out, seeking female 40-65 who wants to be loved for LTR. Box 442318

LET'S GET TOGETHER

20yr single parent, lonely, WLTW girl with GSOH into sport, driving, travelling, music, perhaps up for love and lasting happiness. Box 442333

MY HEART WILL GO ON

Young, single, 50, likes eating in/out, cinema, music, country walks, WLTW a nice, cuddly lady, 60-70. Box 440903

STILL SEARCHING

Attractive, slim male, 51, 5'11", enjoys reading books, poetry, art galleries, keeping fit and Asian food, WLTW slim, interesting conversationalist for an active life together. Box 440620

IN MY SIGHTS

Genuine, friendly male, 52, slender build, dark brown hair, blue eyes, likes wine/dining, music, movies and nights in, seeks easygoing female. Box 442281

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2 OF A KIND

Easygoing and laid-back male, 44yr old, medium build, 5'10, WLTW a similar male for friendship and hopefully romance. Box 442143

JOINED IN LOVE?

Good, down-to-earth guy, 46, green eyes, dark hair, slim, enjoys holidays, music, pubs, eating in/out, looking for a male, 35-50, for companionship. Box 441106

I HEAR YOU CALLING

38yr old good-looking, tanned male, 6'2", like staying in, meals out, WLTW a happy person for good times and maybe more. Box 437652

2 OF A KIND

Easygoing and laid-back male, 44yr old, medium build, 5'10, WLTW a similar male for friendship and hopefully romance. Box 442143



TLC ON OFFER!

Loving, considerate male, 53, enjoys walks on the beach, gardening, motorsport and eating out. WLTW female for a long-term relationship. Box 441267

PERFECT GENTLEMAN

Watchdog wants to hear your concerns

KENT Police Authority will be quizzing people in shopping centres countywide over the next few weeks to identify the main anti-social behaviour concern.

The roadshows follow last year's tour which identified anti-social behaviour as the biggest issue for residents across the county.

Shoppers will be asked to vote on the following potential concerns as identified by police research:

- Teenagers hanging around;
- Rubbish or litter left lying about;
- Vandalism, graffiti or deliberate damage;
- People being drunk or rowdy in public;

■ BY NICK AMES

• People using or dealing drugs.

The tour will run until August 22 and gives the public a chance to meet authority members and police community support officers.

The locations and times of the visits are:

- Maidstone, Chequers Centre, July 28, 11am-3pm;
- Bluewater, July 29, 10am-3pm;
- Folkestone (Asda), July 30, 11am-4pm;
- Ashford, County Square, August 1, 11am-3pm;
- Chatham, Pentagon Centre, August 7, 11am-3pm;
- Kings Hill (Asda), August 15, 11am-4pm;

• Sittingbourne (Asda), August 22, 11am-4pm.

Kent Police Authority chairwoman Ann Barnes said: "The authority acts as a watchdog and we need to let people know there is someone overseeing policing across Kent and Medway."

"Last year we found that anti-social behaviour was the biggest issue for residents. Now we want to find out in more detail what the issues are."

"It will be interesting to see the results as we now have neighbourhood policing under way."

"It is our job to make sure taxpayers get the best value for money. One of our core roles is to find out what people want from policing and I'll be watching with interest to see what the public choose as their top anti-social behaviour priority."



HIDDEN ANXIETY: Kent Police Authority wants to uncover the main public worries



CASH FLOW: Income from Dartford crossing tolls is to be diverted away from Kent

End of the road for county's toll cash

KENT residents are losing out in cash for roads from the Dartford crossing tolls and the system needs to change, according to county councillors.

KCC's Cllr Keith Ferrin said the crossing charging system needed a "radical overhaul" in order for local motorists to benefit.

His call follows news that cash received by the county authority from tolls is set to stop.

The Department of Transport is proposing a discount scheme for drivers in Dartford to pay a £10 registration fee in return for 50 free crossings a year, due to be introduced in the

autumn. However, the £1 million a year which KCC has been getting from the tolls towards planned integrated transport schemes is being phased out.

Cllr Ferrin, the cabinet member for highways, said: "The Dartford tolls don't reduce congestion, they add to it. Motorists are repeatedly held up in lengthy queues on both sides and residents suffer from noise pollution."

"While Kent has been receiving £1 million a year in loan sanctions – meaning we have been allowed to borrow the money – in future we will not even get that."

"The Government is going to divert

the cash away from Kent into national transport projects, while we continue to suffer."

"There must be better ways of doing this which are of benefit to more people in Kent. The charging system needs a radical overhaul to make it fairer for all."

"As it stands, residents in Gravesend won't get the benefit from the proposed discount even though they live four kilometres closer to the crossing than people living on the Essex side who do qualify."

"We believe in putting the people of Kent first. These proposals seem to do the opposite."

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Mayfair Hotel	3* Hotel	St Helier	£399	£359	£459	£499	£499	£459
Ambassadeur	3* Hotel	St Clement	£389	On request	On request	On request	£439	On request
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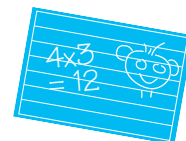
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BREAK TIME



Students have a ball

STUDENTS put on their ball gowns and dinner jackets to celebrate coming to the end of their time at school in style.

Year 13 pupils from the Cornwallis Academy in Linton, Maidstone, enjoyed a three course meal and disco at The Weald of Kent Golf Course, Hotel and Business Centre at Headcorn.

Head of sixth form Joan Withey said the student team did a fantastic job organising the event, which shows how enterprising they can be.

Ms Withey said: "The success of the evening was down to their meticulous planning, team work and organisational skills and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by staff and students."

Memorable evening

MORE than 60 students pulled out all the stops during their school prom to make the event a night to remember.

Year 11 pupils from the New Line Learning Academy in Maidstone celebrated coming to the end of their GCSEs at the Tudor Park Hotel in Bearsted, with many arriving in limousines and horse-drawn carriages.

Headteacher Guy Hewett said: "Both boys and girls looked absolutely wonderful for the occasion with the prom largely organised by Emily Russ and Taylor Stubberfield, whose hard work was rewarded by a fantastic evening."

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Students unite for multicultural fun

Networking day helps pupils to integrate

■ BY LAUREN MUMFORD

YOUNGSTERS from different ethnic backgrounds came together for a networking conference to share advice and take part in a variety of workshops.

A total of 117 students from seven secondary schools and Mid Kent College, who have English as a second language, came to the International Student Voice Network conference at St Simon Stock Catholic School last week.

The conference featured activities including Irish dancing, mask making and music workshops.

The network is the first of its kind in the county and was launched earlier this year in response to the growing number of students with English as an additional language.

Kent County Council's cabinet member for education Chris Wells said: "I'm pleased the event was such a success."

"Being away from your home can be lonely and isolating, so giving young people the chance to get together and make friends is very worthwhile. Ultimately such activities will help them to integrate with the wider community."

Representatives from Connexions led anti-bullying workshops and offered advice, as well as advertising their services to students.

Kent Youth Service and the Minority

Communities Achievement Service also held workshops.

More than ten young people seeking asylum – some have only been in the country for a short time and have not yet joined a school or college – also attended the event.

Mid Kent College student Rahim, 18, who is originally from Afghanistan, said: "It was a good day and I got the chance to speak to other people from Afghanistan and learn about many different cultures."

"I've been in England for one and half years, and although the language was difficult to learn I'm doing OK now and I'm a lot happier here."

Valley Park student Asmita, 15, also enjoyed the day.

She said: "I liked the Irish dancing at the start of the day – that was very good. I enjoyed meeting other people too."

And 17-year-old Franck, who arrived in England from the Ivory Coast three months ago and has been in Maidstone for just over a week, said: "Some people in the Ivory Coast have many problems and need help."

"I've been in England for three months and am very, very happy here. I'm learning English, meeting new people and enjoying playing football."

The various activities and opportunities for socialising meant students could come together to share experiences and individual cultures.

The students were also given contact sheets and activities to encourage them to work together and find out more about one another.



BORN TO BE A DANCER: Asmita enjoyed the unusual experience of Irish dancing at the start of the event

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Lavatorial issues are the bottom line this summer

IF there is one thing more likely to prevent someone going to a music festival this or any other summer, you can bet your bottom dollar it will be to do with where you put your, erhm, bottom.

In a nutshell, I'm talking toilets. The recent fiasco which was the Zoo8 three-day event at Port Lympne recently proved, however, that even those who know just what to expect have some standards.

And believe me, if you know what to expect, your standards will be pretty damn low as a starting point.

Because the latrines are the living embodiment of what a festival means when it comes to lifestyle changes. As you bustle through the gates, a basic level of hygiene must be checked at the door and an acceptance that the phrase 'don't look down' must be applied at all times when a trip to the lavs becomes a necessity.

U-bends mean nothing here... flushing systems are a luxury you must learn to live with-

out. There's no getting away with it, they truly are just as unpleasant as the stories you hear. But it is all part of the experience - and one everyone ought to go through. It's a rite of passage that will make you thank the Lord every time you visit a bathroom with plumbing.

Yet, the truth remains music festivals can provide some of the finest experiences money can buy. Which, given the entrance charges some impose, needs to be sufficiently ecstatic.

But if the sun shines, you are presented with two or three days of doing literally nothing other than listening to music, chatting to friends and, let's not pretend otherwise here, having perhaps a couple of drinks too many without a set of car keys in sight to worry you.

Granted, that may sound like most teenagers' daily lifestyle, but for those in employment, they provide a chance to unwind.

Which is perhaps why, when they go through the frustration and anger is so apparent. It's like going on holiday and finding out there's a construction site outside your apartment.

Of course, there has perhaps been no word more frequently used this summer in the

county than 'festival'. Every weekend, it seems, a cow field somewhere has been transformed into a 'festival' site and those who enjoy spending a weekend under canvas caked in mud flock to listen to an often eclectic line-up of musical acts.

But don't let it ever be said festivals are just for music. Oh no! This year we have fruit, oyster, cherry, football and comedy festivals. You name it there's a festival devoted to it. Not so long ago the county even hosted a garlic festival (insert 'a real stinker' gag of your choice). Surely it's only a matter of time before the business world gets involved and companies start flocking to seminar festivals, or blue-sky thinking festivals; suited and booted executives standing in fields listening to ways of raising revenues and boosting bottom lines?

Mind you, if they could enhance the line of lavs you place your bottom on, that could become the finest festival performance of all.

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FORBIDDEN KINGDOM (12A)



A 21st-century American teenager takes a spellbinding, dangerous journey into martial arts legend in this new action/adventure epic. Shot on location in China, it marks the historic first onscreen pairing of martial arts superstars Jackie Chan and Jet Li and the awe-inspiring choreography of Wo Ping (Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon).

CITY OF MEN (15)



Growing up in a culture dictated by violence, teenagers Acerola and Laranjinha have become close. With their 18th birthdays fast approaching, Laranjinha sets out to find the father he never met, while Acerola struggles to raise his own young son. But they suddenly find themselves on opposite sides of a violent gang war.

That spandex moment

BY KATE WHITING

MERYL Streep is best known for her serious roles in films like *Out Of Africa*, so it's really quite hard to imagine her as a flamboyant Lycra-clad blonde, belting out Super Trouper and other camp Abba numbers.

But this is exactly the surprising transformation the two-time Oscar-winner has undergone for one of this summer's brightest blockbusters – the film adaptation of the hit musical *Mamma Mia!*

When we meet at an elegant hotel in London, Streep is looking her usual demure self – but she's mischievous and keen to dispel the idea that she's out of place in musicals.

"My first Broadway show was a musical and then I'd done a lot of musicals in high school, so it was like coming home to a thing that I always loved doing," she says.

"I haven't done many because I haven't done much stage, even though I wanted to, in a long time... and people are afraid to make musicals into movies."

Streep heads an impressive cast-list as Donna, a hippy mum running a guest house on a Greek island whose only daughter Sophie (Amanda Seyfried) is about to get married.

Unknown to Donna, Sophie has pinched her mum's diary from the year she was born and has invited her three potential fathers (played by Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth and Stellan Skarsgard) to her wedding, although her mum hasn't seen them in 20 years.

Cue much mayhem in the sweltering heat as Sophie tries to



ORIGINAL: Meryl Streep loved performing in her first movie musical *Mamma Mia!*

work out which man is her dad and Donna tries to chase them off the island – all set to various Abba classics.

One of the funniest, and most surreal, moments comes during Sophie's hen party, when Donna and her best friends (played by Julie Walters and Christine Baranski) squeeze into their plat-

form boots and colourful flares to perform one more time as 1970s band Donna And The Dynamos. Streep, who recently turned 59 but doesn't look anywhere near it, fell in love with *Mamma Mia!* long before she was singled out to play Donna after watching it on Broadway in 2001.

"I took my ten-year-old and her

birthday party right after it had opened. It was right after September 11 and everyone was feeling really low and I thought 'What am I going to do with all these kids?', she says.

"I saw an ad in the New York Times and it said 'new British musical' and something about 'buoyant fun' and I thought 'Boy! I'm there'.

"I took the kids and we were all dancing in the aisles and down the street. I bought the album and sang the songs for two years."

The actress, who has four children with her husband of almost 30 years Don Gummer, admits she was apprehensive about her now grown-up offspring seeing their mum in psychedelic 1970s gear for some of the big retro dance numbers.

"I was nervous, but then I showed them all the stills and they've already had their mortification moment about me wearing spandex.

"We have to get over this," she says with a laugh. "I can't wait for them to see it. It's as if we've all done it for our daughters."

"My son will be appalled, but I think he'll actually like it because he's a musician and he'll get a kick out of it."

MAMMA MIA!
Certificate PG

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TALK TIME

KATE HERRON

The 20-year-old media student took time out from studying to talk about what she likes and dislikes about the town.



Can you tell us about yourself?

I am now in my second year at Bournemouth University studying media and I am really enjoying it. Being at university is such a great experience - I have met a lot of people and made some strong friendships over the time I have been there, and been to some great parties I know I won't forget. I am really into films and music and enjoy going to gigs, parties, festivals and shows.

Where do you live in Maidstone, what attracted you to the area and what do you like doing in your spare time?

I am originally from Welling but moved down to Maidstone with my family as they wanted to move somewhere friendlier, somewhere a bit quieter and greener.

We now live in Barming, which is a nice village close to the town centre but also on the doorstep to the countryside and has good rail links. The village has a lot of lovely areas which are perfect for taking my dog for a walk and I find it a lot cleaner environmentally and cosmetically compared to the place I grew up in.

I also think it is a safe place to be both day and night and never feel concerned if I have to walk home alone in the evening. I don't often stay in the county town too long as I am at university but when I am here I meet up with a few friends - many of which have surprisingly uprooted with their family as I did to Maidstone.

YOUR LETTERS

REVIEW - Hop Farm festivals are a sound success

The Hop Farm Festival and Mighty Beach Festival at Fiddlers Wood Hop Farm, by Simon Robinson.

The mark of a musician can often be measured by the distance travelled by a fan to see them play.

With this in mind, I gave you folk legend Neil Young, whose breathtaking live performance at yesterday's 'a Hop Farm Festival drive through park' from as far away as Canada.

That's a 7,000 mile round trip.

These dedicated, if slightly jet-lagged, fans were not to be disappointed as the veteran rocker put in a scorching two-hour set to bring the one-day festival to a close.

Having dazzled the 30,000-strong crowd with his mastery of the six-string, Mr Young returned to his 1970s roots, performing a string of protest, heart-wrenching hits on an acoustic guitar.

Already looking to Hop to next festival

What an amazing day ... from start to finish. I have been to all the festivals for many years and never had a whole day where every act proved to outweigh my expectations!

Guillemots had an outstanding stage presence and such a talented group. My Morning Jacket were seriously uplifting and Everest is my next CD purchase.

Laura Marling is truly talented and a great songwriter who caught the attention of everyone around me ... I will most certainly be back next year ... what a success!

Tilly Tarot, from Walmer, comment posted on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Anarchy descends as crowds try to go

I had a grand day out checking out the bands and eating pie. Guillemots and Neil Young were real highlights for me.

Great review, but it really hasn't been hammered home



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enough how much of a joke the job of emptying the car parks turned out to be. After leaving

the arena around 11.30pm, it took three hours to get out of the field, with hundreds of cars in

total anarchy with no discernable supervision from marshalls, stewards, or police. Things were turning very nasty at points.

Mike Dickinson, from Rochester, comment posted on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Poor lighting made hometime difficult

I agree re toilets. Getting out of the place was not particularly straightforward either: I'm glad I did not need to exit in an emergency. It was difficult to find the exit because signs were not visible in the dark - could have done with illuminating.

Free shuttle bus services ran, but I wonder how those fared, as people were seemingly stranded at the station, with the last train I believe, having left an hour before.

Police and ambulance were leaving just as I arrived the next day. I wondered if that was related?

Neil and Rufus - GREAT. Guillemots for me next best of line-up.

Chris Butcher, from Uxbridge, comment posted on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

We simply couldn't leave quick enough

Neil Young was absolutely breathtaking, I agree.

However, the sound quality was appalling. Moreover, the car park exit for 30,000 people was not organised and people had to wait hours to be able to get out of the car parks late at night.

The council should make sure next time that this will not happen again.

Organisers must provide enough exits for cars so there are

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not such hefty queues. But the concert was really brilliant.

Hasi, from Berkshire, comment posted on web story at www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

It's time to employ more police officers

I was staggered to read that police have earned so much in overtime in the past two years.

If there was ever evidence we need more

police officers, this must surely be it.

One assumes overtime is paid at above the standard hourly rate, so we end up paying more for work to be done, and police officers must be more tired and overworked as well.

So, can we please look at this and accept there is a need for more officers, and sooner rather than later?

James Milhouse,
by email.

Article is proof that ban is ill-considered

It was good to see your story in last week's paper over the use of the so-called 'smokeless cigarette', which is perfectly legal to use indoors.

Arguably this could be part of a



recognition that the ill-considered smoking ban needs a rethink, especially for pubs and clubs, in fact anywhere where people meet socially.

The smokeless cigarette device will wrongly be seen by some pub landlords as a potential life saver. They are almost without exception facing a threat to their business caused by declining visits.

Well done to your reporter Tom Betts for taking this on to the street to gauge people's reactions and perhaps in time people will begin to recognise the smoking ban is not a benefit.

Allow smoking and non-smoking pubs, clubs and restaurants, then Britain can once again consider itself a tolerant and civilised nation.

Charlie Kegworth,
by email

You should be hot and bothered too

I hope you'll forgive me writing out of the blue, but it has been my impression lately that in all the (perfectly justified) interest these

days in alternative power, recycling and conscientious eco-living, many people have been overlooking one of the most effective things we can do for the environment.

The continued cutting down of the great rainforests releases more CO2 than all of the world's planes, trains and automobiles combined.

Admirable as the individual actions we might take at home with light bulbs and cars may be, uniting to stop deforestation is one of the best ways to reverse climate change.

I'm very proud to be a part of the Rainforest Foundation UK's new initiative Hot and Bothered, which is reminding people of these simple and devastatingly important facts.

I returned from filming in the Amazon recently and it is impossible to witness the signs, everywhere, of logging, clearance and forest destruction without getting very hot and bothered indeed.

The RFUK is calling on everyone to create an acre of online rainforest. Each online acre will help RFUK protect real rainforests and the people who live in and depend on them.

I do hope your readers will consider supporting this important campaign. The opportunity to make a real difference is something we owe generations yet unborn.

Stephen Fry,
by email.



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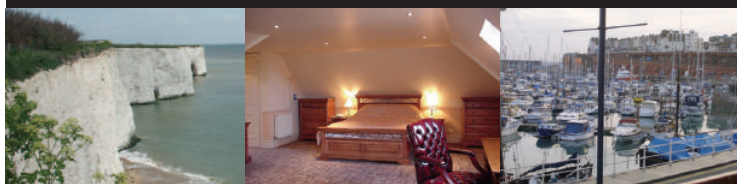
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yourmaidstonemusic

Hives of entertainment

Great bands save festival with their animal magic

BY SIMON ROBINSON

LET us reflect on the positives of Zoo8. (Feel free to count the number of painful, animal-related puns shoe-horned in below).

The whole weekend was anything but a roaring success (here we go), but all was not entirely lost.

Festival-goers went wild for the likes of The Hives, British Sea Power, Hadouken, The Cribs and Ash, who all put in great performances on the main stage.

Music lovers also stamped to the festival's number one stage to watch producer extraordinaire Mark Ronson bring the opening day's proceedings to a close.

He was okay – but I can't see what all the fuss is about. After all, his set consisted of covers of covers of hit singles.

So the Zutons' hit single Valerie, covered superbly by Ronson/Winehouse was played live by Ronson/little-known guest vocalist.

Hardly elephant-astic.

Minor quibble aside, Ronson and all the other artists who performed at Zoo8 were largely well-received by the 12,000-strong crowd.

Lethal Bizzle deserves particular praise for



GREAT: Ash and Hadouken were among the acts who performed on the main stage at the Zoo8 festival



filling in for Dizzee Rascal. The carnivorous crowd were baying for blood at the beginning of his stand-in set, but were quickly converted and seemed to really enjoy his high-energy performance.

The dance tent was also a hit and arguably the most successful stage during the three-day event, with lots of monkeying about going on around the clock.

The festival also gave the cream of Kent's emerging talent a chance to reach a new audience, something which should not be overlooked.

And, of course, the proximity to the zoo was a real bonus, with a half-price entry deal running throughout the week, it wasn't too deer.

Port Lympne Wild Animal Park is one of the county's best tourist attractions, housing thousands of animals from majestic rhinos, tigers and elephants to hyperactive monkeys, bush dogs and wolves.

The park was only a ten-minute walk from the festival site and gave Zoo8 ticket holders an alternative to just lion around before the day's music began.

Yes, there were many, many problems with the festival.

But with the apologetic promoters promising to rectify them at Zoo9, perhaps a leopard can change his spots? (Apologies for the puns).

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LOUD: Rufus Wainwright at the Hop Farm, Paddock Wood



ZOO8: Yourkenttv's Julie Maddocks reports on the festival



PUB NIGHT: The Suspects play Pretty Vacant at a recent gig

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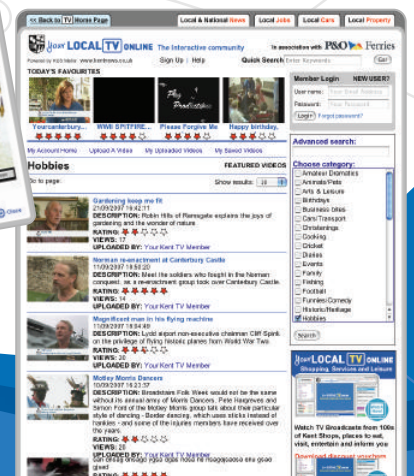
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In addition, you can refuel at the Verve Grill, the new restaurant with a fresh and imaginative menu serving exceptional food and fine wines, alternatively drop into the Victory pub and kitchen, it's the perfect lifestyle: Work out – Chill out – Crash out.

The centre has six personal



trainers supplying one-to-one sessions, which include full weight management consultation, fitness testing and objective lifestyle advice.

The personal trainers are fully qualified and experienced, half

are also qualified in sports therapy, and so are able to provide additional professional support to meet every need.

Manager Kim Brockhurst said: "To us all of our customers are VIPs. My team thrive on

achieving individual goals. I have fully qualified swimming instructors providing lessons for the young, as well as studio instructors providing classes for the more mature.

"Everyone in my team is important and they all provide different skills.

"Staff and service – in particular range of services – as well as atmosphere, are all important to me.

"Village health and fitness clubs are the perfect place to kick start those changes – and with a fitness regime designed at your own pace, Village health and fitness is on hand to guide you through each step to becoming the healthiest you can be."

Banish blemishes with laser therapy



FIX IT: Beat blotchy skin when you try out laser treatment

■ Lockmeadow Clinic, Maidstone Churchill Clinic Cosmetics, Chatham

BEAUTICIAN and laser therapy business Lockmeadow Clinic in Maidstone and Churchill Clinic Cosmetics in Chatham are proving a great success with customers who have been returning for five years.

Nalini Vibhuti, who runs the businesses, said: "Our clinic has experienced staff, including a medical practitioner who is a member of the British Association of cosmetic and laser doctors.

"We offer the latest minimally invasive cosmetic treatments that used to only be available to a privileged few.

"We have very advanced laser/IPL equipment to deal with acne, threadveins, wrinkles,

blemishes, birthmarks, sun damage and even tattoos.

"We offer various dermal fillers, Botox, chemical peels. All treatments that you see on ten years younger and TV programme for youthful looks.

"We are a specialist clinic with trained professionals with a medical and surgical ostentation, we offer much more advanced treatment than ordinary beauty salons can offer.

Current best selling treatments include Botox for smoothening of lines and resylane hiplo for enhancing pouting lips.

Nalini added: "We are able to provide reliable products and services that are proven, delivered by professionals and friendly staff who are all well-trained in their craft.

"We have great staff, Michaela and Becky are our beauty and laser therapists, they are the heart and soul of the business."

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Village Hotel

Never work out on an empty stomach – a banana beforehand provides necessary energy to work out to the max Always wear the correct footwear when working out. Correct footwear will ensure ankle and foot support, helping to avoiding injuries.

Think TrimNSlim

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Summer of jazz will be orange



LEGENDS: Stan Tracey, the godfather of British jazz, will perform at the Gulbenkian Theatre, while Sid Bailey (inset) will make music with son Sam

THE Orange Street Summer of Jazz Festival will open with a flourish when it welcomes the legendary Stan Tracey.

Widely acknowledged as 'the godfather of British jazz', Tracey's career has spanned six decades and he is considered to be a hugely influential musician. He has influenced and stimulated not only his contemporaries, but every generation with which he has worked.

He is a prolific composer, having written 20 commissions and 40 of his own albums, and he is renowned for combining the percussive melody of Thelonious Monk with the robust lyricism of Duke Ellington.

Adding his idiosyncratic style, he has created exceptional music throughout his career. Tracey has been appointed a CBE and has also won the BBC Radio Jazz Award for Lifetime Achievement.

He returns to Canterbury following his sell-out concert last year. You can

see him give a trio performance at the Gulbenkian Theatre at 7.45pm on Thursday, July 24. Tickets cost £16/£14. To book, phone the box office on 01227 769075, or visit www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk.

The line-up of jazz acts continues at Orange Street Music Venue, where highlights will include experimental four-piece Outhouse on Friday, July 25; vocalist Gwyneth Herbert on Saturday, July 26; local pianists the David Rees-Williams Trio on Sunday, July 27; and piano and acoustic guitar duo Westcott & Rodway on Thursday, July 31.

There will be a family feeling to the festival when Sam and Sid Bailey make their contributions. On Monday, July 28, pianist Sam will perform as part of The Quartet, along with Jack Hughes on guitar, Tom Mason on double bass and Dave Smith on drums, while his father Sid will appear with the Sid Bailey Tailgate Six on Friday, August 1.

The six musicians have spent a life-

time playing jazz with New Orleans spice and the group includes JJ Vinton, who was George Melly's pianist for 11 years.

Orange Street is offering a special 'father and son' deal for these two concerts - take your father along and see both gigs for just £15 per person.

And you can discover what jazz mixed with heavy metal sounds like when Led Bib takes to the stage, while Huw Warren, winner of the BBC Innovation in Jazz Award, combines folk, jazz and classical influences in his piano compositions.

The festival will close with Canterbury's most famous jazzman Tony Coe playing with an all-star quartet on Saturday, August 9.

For more information, visit www.orangestreetmusic.com.

ORANGE STREET SUMMER OF JAZZ FESTIVAL

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SHIRE AND WORKING HORSE SHOW

Saturday and Sunday, July 19 & 20
Museum of Kent Life, Sandling

THE beauty and power of gentle giants will be on display during the Shire & Working Horse Show at the Museum of Kent Life.

It will be the first time the Sandling attraction has hosted such a show and it will also celebrate the 25th anniversary of the South Eastern Shire Horse Association. On Saturday there will be a chance to see horses demonstrating how they work the land and watch the exciting timed trials of horsemanship.

Sunday will see the horses in all their finery as they show off their colours and brasses, as well as demonstrating the brewery dray, wagons and tip carts. Enjoy the ridden classes, see the beautiful young horses in the Mare with Foal at Foot category and watch the young handlers displaying their skills.

The museum is open from 10am to 5pm. Tickets on the gate cost £8.50/£7 for adults and £6.20 for children aged three to 15.

To save £1 off the admission price, book in advance by calling 01622 602169.



WAR AND PEACE SHOW

Wednesday to Sunday, July 16 to 20
The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood

FIND out how Britain fought the war, at home and abroad, at the War and Peace Show from today.

The Hop Farm will host the show that takes visitors back in time to World War Two. See the tanks, trucks and other military vehicles that took soldiers to war, the uniforms they wore and the ways in which they fought.

Stage displays and demonstrations will show how some men managed to survive battles, while the power of the tanks and armoured trucks can be seen in the main arena.

The show is not just about battle – there will also be a chance to enjoy the lively music of the era with two fantastic bands. Bill Baker's Big Band from the Netherlands keeps alive the melodic sound of Glenn Miller, while the high-energy Jive Aces will have visitors jitterbugging.

Tickets cost £17/£15 for adults, £15 for children and £59 for families of two adults and up to three children. Discounted advance tickets are available online at www.thehopfarm.co.uk.



VALERIE SMITH

Sunday and Monday, July 20 & 21
Zebra Bar, Maidstone

MAVERICK@ZEBRA is preparing to welcome two great country acts from opposite sides of the Atlantic.

The Haley Sisters from Yorkshire have been touring since they were teenagers and quickly became Britain's top country duo. Jo Ann and Becky appeared on the theatre circuit with Daniel O'Donnell.

Radio 2 DJ Bob Harris described their harmonies as "exquisite and captivating"

and music fans can hear them on Sunday, with their special guest Christene LeDoux.

On Monday Valerie Smith and her band Liberty Pike will be bringing their high-energy sound to Maidstone, showing why they are one of the UK's favourite American bluegrass acts. Fiddle player and singer/songwriter Becky Buller and Smith have recorded a new album together.

Both concerts start at 8pm. Tickets cost £8 in advance or £10 on the door for the Haley Sisters gig and £10 in advance or £12 on the door for Valerie Smith. To book call 01622 744481.

MAIDSTONE LEISURE

Enjoy music from around the world at the Pantiles

A WORLD party will be taking place at the Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells on Saturday with a variety of artists.

Local singer/songwriter Nina Clark, Spanish-inspired Mosaico Flamenco and London's Cordao de Ouro Capoeira Group will take part in the free performance between noon and 4pm.

The event has been arranged by Targetfollow, the owners of the Pantiles.

Musical celebration will feature young students

STUDENTS from the Mandy Ellen School of Dance will be taking part in Musical Madness this week.

The show at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, will be a celebration of popular musicals such as Mary Poppins, Annie, Oliver, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and more. Performances start at 7.30pm on Friday and Saturday, with 2.30pm matinees on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets cost £9.50/£7.50. To book call the box office on 01622 758611 or book online at www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

Outdoor dream will change place to theatre

FAIRIES and magic will come to life at Boughton Monchelsea Place this week.

An outdoor production of A Midsummer Night's Dream is presented by the Hazlitt Theatre and the Changeling.

The play runs until Sunday. Performances start at 7.30pm until Saturday, with a 3pm matinee also on Saturday, and a 5pm show on Sunday. Tickets are priced from £10. Call 01622 758611 or www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

Four artists exhibit their latest work in gallery

WE would like to make it clear that Liberty Gallery's Take Four exhibition will be held at Liberty Gallery in Kings Hill, not at Maidstone's Source Bar as listed in last week's paper due to a production error.

The exhibition runs until Saturday, August 23, and features the work of four artists – Maria Rivans, Craig Griffin, Matt Smith and Penny Green.

The gallery is open from 9am to 5.30pm, Monday to Saturday. For more details call 01732 522311 or visit the website at www.liberty-gallery.com.

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PRINCIPLES

Nouveau beaded flapper dress, price £150

MAIDSTONE SHOPPING

Leona brings an X-tra factor to sun campaign

SUN-lovers heading off on summer holidays are invited to take advantage of Superdrug's buy-one-get-one free deals on sun care products.

The high street retailer has teamed up with the Teenage Cancer Trust to launch their sunburn campaign, which is backed by X-factor star Leona Lewis.

Customers can choose between after-sun gel, sun cream, facial cream and sun protection spray at the Fremlin Walk store.

For more information visit www.superdrug.com or see in-store.

A festival of accessories for your fashion needs

GET into the festival spirit with accessories from Claire's.

If you're off to party the summer away you'll find everything you need to look the part at the King Street and Fremlin Walk stores.

Belts are available for £8, with necklaces for £6 and earrings for the same price. Big sunglasses can also be found for £10 and colourful bangles priced at £5 and £6.

For details see www.claire.co.uk or pop into one of the stores.

Book in for some great summer reads for less

PICK up a selection of must-have reads in hardback at Tesco.

Prices begin as low as £8 and new books, including Karin Slaughter's Fractured and Clive Cussler's Plague Ship, are available for just £10.

Autobiographies can also be found with My Booky Wook by Russell Brand, Prezza by John Prescott and Jordon - Pushed to the Limits by Katie Price, for £10.

To see the selection of books on offer log on to www.tesco.com.

Great summer fashions to make boys into men

BURTON has a new range of trendy clothing fit for the modern man to strut around in this summer.

The store in Week Street also has a selection of Quicksilver T-shirts on offer from £15, as well as up to 25 per cent off selected shirts. Shoppers can also buy a number of funky non-sale new T-shirts, flowery surf shorts and classy V-neck jumpers.

See in-store or visit www.burton.co.uk.

It'd be criminal of you to miss this store's sale

BOOK worms who like a challenge when they read are invited to check out a selection of books in the Waterstones crime fiction sale.

Shoppers can get 40 per cent off a staggering 44 titles including The Coroner's Lunch by Colin Cotterill, The Murder Farm by Andrea Maria Schenkel and Silence by Thomas Perry, all for less than £5.

Visit the Fremlin Walk or Earl Street store or see www.waterstones.com.

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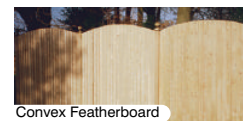
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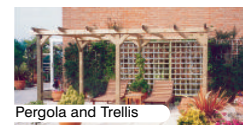
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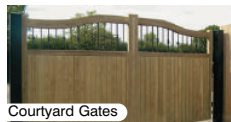
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YOUR TV REVIEW

BACK TO YOU
More 4, 9.35pm, Wednesday
MY FAMILY
BBC One, 8pm, Wednesday

■ BY TOM BETTS

IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

On the second day God said: "Let there be Cheers," and he saw Cheers, and he saw that it was good.

On the third day, God created Fraiser and he saw that it too was good.

On the fourth day he said: "Let there be Back to You," – and that's where it all went horribly wrong.

It's not that this latest American sitcom is awful or that it doesn't occasionally raise a titter, but that it's almost an exact replica of its predecessor – just with a few nips and tucks.

Kelsey Grammar's last big project may have been a bonafide TV classic where he demonstrated that he was one of the few genuinely interesting TV actors left, but the whiff of laziness hangs over this like smog over the Olympic stadium.

It's a real disappointment that instead of moving on as he appeared to be doing (he played the bright blue, muscle-bound Thing in X Men 3 for those who didn't know) it's frustrating to see he has decided to plough the same furrow as a bumbling, middle-aged, unlucky-in-love male once again.

You wonder why they would bother to remake a show that has only been off the air a few seasons, when they could have simply stretched out the original a little longer if need be.

If you never saw Fraiser then this could work for you, but it's still a drop in quality and I'd leave well alone if you were a fan of the shrink's antics and would rather not tarnish the memory.

I've never quite understood the pub-



OLD JOSES: Kelsey Grammar (right) seems to have made an error with More 4's Back To You

lic's fascination with My Family. I could more easily understand a fascination with my family, but no, not My Family.

I don't know anyone who tunes in, or will admit to it, yet it's a massive ratings hit for the BBC. Clearly some of you out there do like it.

Under the canned laughter though, I've always wondered where the jokes are hiding.

As the show simply isn't amusing I guess the appeal is that, in general, this overly silly, suburban nightmare is a closer representation of a typical family than those portrayed by say, EastEnders and picks up viewers who take comfort in that.

Not the heartiest recommendation for a comedy to compare it to a soap opera, but I really have laughed harder at Pauline Fowler's cardigans.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)
GETTING help from a friend, lover or colleague is will be invaluable. If you keep turning this person away, your relationship will fall apart at the seams. You need to learn how to become more open. If that means relinquishing some of your independence, so be it.
To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)
YOU finally have the money to buy something for your home. Refuse to feel guilty about indulging your love of luxury. You're long overdue for a treat. Making more time for simple pleasures like gardening and craftwork will put you in touch with similarly creative people.
To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)
THIS week highlights your wit, charm, and grace. Now is the time to ask for that special favour. Trust your instincts with regard to a finance. It will require lots of effort on your part, but the long-term rewards will be worth it. A difficult work situation could come to an end.
To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)
YOU know just what to do and say to win favour with the public. This is an excellent time to go on job interviews and auditions. Your extensive knowledge wins you points with an important committee. News about a business matter could open up exciting doors.
To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)
WORK becomes a lot more pleasant this week. Maybe you'll be given a plum assignment. It's even possible an unpleasant colleague will change jobs. You should take time to celebrate. Worrying less about your job gives you more time for the people and activities you love.
To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)
TAKING a short trip for pleasure could give you valuable perspective. Stop spending your precious time on thankless duties that make you miserable. A moneymaking idea allows you to spend more time with your family. It also gives you the freedom of working for yourself.
To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)
SPENDING time on your own helps recharge your spiritual batteries. Friends give you positive feedback about a personal decision. Having their support will make all the difference to your ultimate success. You could even get help from an unexpected source.
To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)
GOING on a trip could be in the cards. You've been longing to expand your horizons. Be sure to visit a city with an element of glamour to it. If you're single, you could meet someone special on this journey. The two of you will feel an instant physical attraction.
To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)
THIS week opens an extended period of fun, romance and adventure. Enjoy this phase to the fullest. It will be much easier to strike a healthy balance between your personal and professional lives. A sudden revelation could help you come to terms with a long-held grudge.
To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)
MONEY becomes more readily available for creature comforts. The happiness these possessions bring will be worth the investment. Learning a valuable skill makes you more confident. A dynamic instructor helps you soak up information like a sponge. They think you have talent.
To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)
BEAUTIFYING a public space will be a good use of your time. You're greatly attuned to your surroundings. You may be surprised to learn how many people share your disgust and will work to improve things. Favourable publicity could come as a result of these efforts.
To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)
BECOMING intimate with a love interest will prove a welcome distraction. It's a relief to be able to let down your defences. The more honest you are, the stronger your relationship will become. It's especially important to discuss taboo subjects, like religion, sex, and prejudices.
To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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EASY

5	6		8		1		9
	3				2		7
			2	5	3		
	8	7	3		6		2
9	6				5		3
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1	4				9		
6	5			1	2	8	

MEDIUM

	3			9			5
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			4	5	6		8
						5	6
6		2	8		4		9
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HARD

	8				3		5
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	7			2	3		
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CRYPTIC CLUES

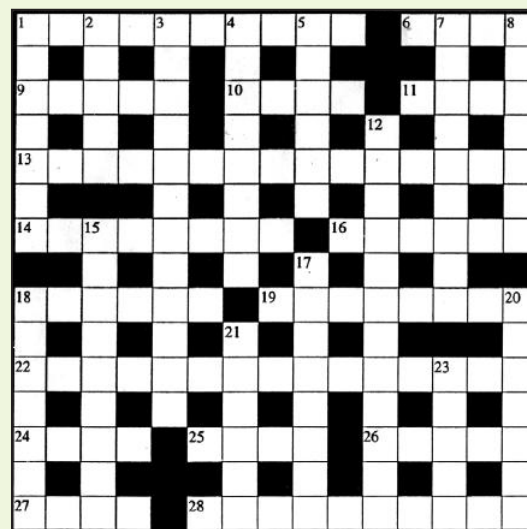
ACROSS

- 1 Dish varied by cook (5,5)
- 6 Is removed from discus strangely that will move swiftly in the wind (4)
- 9 Record book (5)
- 10 Loud performance in reality (4)
- 11 Some dreamboat in pulp! (4)
- 13 In following as a result of it being trivial (15)
- 14 Denial that it's brat playing with lute (8)
- 16 Miniature fly appears before time (6)
- 18 Medicine for head zookeeper on account (6)
- 19 Negligent not having a concern (8)
- 22 It is something credit customer cannot have (8,3,4)
- 24 Man I name taking Virginia inside (4)
- 25 Reckless little wife removed lid (4)
- 26 A few need space to make revving up noise (5)
- 27 Gold-coloured security (4)
- 28 Merry boy on board (5,5)

DOWN

- 1 More pithy but of less interest to a vegetarian? (7)
- 2 Appallingly execrable earl leaves boat! (5)
- 3 Teacher in show business? (12)
- 4 Rob fellow soldier (8)
- 5 Hair-raising in prison? (4-2)
- 7 Arriving about midday initially with the Parisian mix (9)
- 8 Small amount of liquid allowed to fall first (7)
- 12 Is one trained on the job? (6-6)
- 15 Reserve seat at market perhaps (9)
- 17 Daughter laid off extraordinary bloomer (8)
- 18 Penny putting in ingredients for stuffing (7)
- 20 Some kirsch emerged for planner (7)
- 21 Violet Jones accommodates duke (6)
- 23 A desire to be in company (5)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Stilton egg (4-6)
- 6 Leer (4)
- 9 Sorrowfully (5)
- 10 Impel (4)
- 11 Jape (4)
- 13 Debut (5,10)
- 14 More probable (8)
- 16 Call for repetition (6)
- 18 Clannish (6)
- 19 Eastern US state (8)
- 22 Large church in Devon (6,9)
- 24 IOW resort (4)
- 25 Face-covering (4)
- 26 Soaked (5)
- 27 Come across (4)

DOWN

- 1 Shy (7)
- 2 Mammary gland (5)
- 3 Fortune-teller (7-5)
- 4 Supplied (8)
- 5 Tinges (anag.) (6)
- 7 Raw youth (9)
- 8 Drastic (7)
- 12 Sinner (12)
- 15 Critical point (5-4)
- 17 In error (8)
- 18 Proposition (7)
- 20 Calmed (7)
- 21 Book size (6)
- 23 Stiff (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No44

EASY

2	6	1	9	5	8	3	7	4
3	8	7	1	6	4	5	2	9
5	9	4	7	2	3	8	1	6
6	3	8	2	7	9	4	5	1
1	2	9	8	4	5	6	3	7
7	4	5	6	3	1	2	9	8
8	1	6	3	9	2	7	4	5
4	7	3	5	1	6	9	8	2
9	5	2	4	8	7	1	6	3

MEDIUM

3	1	7	4	6	5	2	9	8
4	6	8	2	7	9	5	3	1
5	2	9	1	8	3	6	7	4
1	5	3	9	2	7	4	8	6
7	4	6	8	5	1	9	2	3
8	9	2	3	4	6	1	5	7
2	3	4	6	9	8	7	1	5
9	7	1	5	3	4	8	6	2
6	8	5	7	1	2	3	4	9

HARD

3	4	6	7	8	2	9	1	5
7	8	9	5	1	6	4	3	2
1	2	5	3	9	4	6	7	8
6	3	1	8	4	9	2	5	7
5	9	2	6	3	7	8	4	1
4	7	8	1	2	5	3	9	6
2	1	3	9	7	8	5	6	4
9	5	4	2	6	1	7	8	3
8	6	7	4	5	3	1	2	9

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No44

ACROSS: 1 Zaire 4 Lakeside 8 Left on the shelf 10 Idealised 11 Brest 12 Nail 13 Heirloom 17 Jingoism 18 Weak 22 Let-up 24 Lacquered 25 Joker in the pack 26 Ancestry 27 Try-on **DOWN:** 1 Zillion 2 Inflection 3 Etoile 4 Latest 5 Knee-deep 6 Schubert 7 Delve 9 Stum 14 Oven-ready 15 Codpiece 16 Psalmist 17 Jolt 19 Kidskin 20 Scatty 21 Lucent 23 Thorn.

QUICK SOLUTION No45

1 Bashful 2 Under 3 Crystal-gazer 4 Equipped 5 Signet 7 Greenhorn 8 Extreme 12 Transgressor 15 Knife-edge 17 Mistaken 18 Theorem 20 Allayed 21 Octavo 23 Rigid 26 Soggy 27 Meet 28 Downgraded **DOWN:** 10 Unga 11 Jest 13 First appearance 14 Likelier 16 Encore 18 Tribal 19 Virginia 22 Euter Cathedral 24 Ryde 25 Mask 26

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

yourmaidstonegetaways



It's Scilly to travel any further

■ BY GARY WRIGHT

IT may be a cliché, but as I gazed toward the sprinkling of tiny islands across the mauve waters reflecting the sunlight of the bay, I really could have been anywhere in the world.

Yet I was just 28 miles off the coast of mainland Britain, standing under a palm tree on one of the isle of Tresco's amazing beaches.

Tresco is arguably the prettiest of the archipelago that is the Isles of Scilly. But this idyllic location remains something of a secret; there are those 'in the know', the lucky few who have visited and come back year after year. And then there are the rest of us, who would perhaps struggle to point to the isles on a map.

The 2,000 residents – most of whom live on the main island of St Mary's – will happily tell you about the Gulf Stream that ensures higher temperatures and frost-free winters.

They might also mention their average wage is well under the rest of the UK and they might even moan, if light-heartedly, that the whole area is part of the Duchy of Cornwall and allows Prince Charles to rake in millions each year.

So, arguably, this is feudal Britain... but with a twist. Because they all love living there.

What they forget to mention, but it strikes any visitor immediately, is the lifestyle from another century. Everyone says 'good morning' and people really do leave their doors unlocked at night. No one can remember the last serious crime on the isles.

There is an air of innocence about the place,



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almost quaint, but it is sincere, unlike so many picturesque destinations.

But while Bryher is a walkers' paradise, with its granite hillsides, quartz-sprinkled beaches and dramatic views over the Atlantic breakers, do not think survival is basic.

Bryher's Hell Bay Hotel proves it's a luxury holiday location, too. Alongside some of the best service I've ever sampled in the UK, its cuisine is top-notch (sort of nouvelle British) and the wine list will please everyone.

Rooms are magnificent. Decorated in a simple New England style – pastel colours and plenty of wood – my balcony looked out to sea... next stop really was New York.

Its sister establishment on Tresco is The Island Hotel, a five-minute boat ride followed by tractor bus. Once again service was exceptional, but there was a more refined air – most people

dressed for dinner – compared with the newer Bryher upstart.

It is a regular in Britain's top 50 hotels and would be a winner in my book even if it were a potting shed, simply for its location. As I enjoyed a divine meal gazing across Long Point to Foreman's Island while the sun turned the sky red, I truly felt Scilly was unbeatable.

Tresco is the island of choice for many holiday-makers with its beaches, country walks, spectacular botanical gardens and lifestyle.

And the Flying Boat Club, with its restaurant bar, pool and spa, offers all the facilities of a first-class hotel for people staying in the club's beach houses and cottages.

So why are you flying halfway around the world for island isolation, spectacular scenery, exceptional service and escape from the crush of other holidaymakers?

FACT FILE

Holiday details

Getting there: Boat: Scillonian III passenger ferry. Departs from Penzance to St Mary's six days a week. From £76 return.

Airplane: Skybus from Southampton, Bristol, Exeter, Newquay and Land's End to St Mary's, six days a week. Prices from £109 to £309 return. Details flights and ferry: www.ios-travel.co.uk, or phone 0845 710 5555.

Helicopter: British International. Fly from Penzance Heliport to St Mary's, six days a week. Prices from £112 to £160 return. Details of helicopter, visit www.islesofscillyhelicopter.com, or phone 01736 363871.

Gary Wright was a guest at both the Hell Bay Hotel on Bryher (from £130 to £300 per person, including breakfast dinner and VAT) and The Island Hotel on Tresco (from £130 to £360 per person, including breakfast, dinner and VAT). For details, visit www.hellbay.co.uk and www.islandhotel.co.uk.

For timeshare options on Tresco with three-year advance rent and guaranteed cash-back and buy-back, see www.tresco.co.uk, or phone Tresco Estates on 01720 422849.

Boat travel between islands varies from £3 up, but hotels can advise and organise travel between islands.



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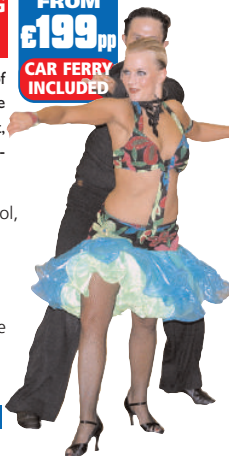
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July 25	Littlecote House, Berkshire	3	£269	£239pp
July 28	Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales	4	£304	£269pp
August 8	Alvaston Hall, Cheshire	3	£234	£199pp
August 11	Nidd Hall, North Yorkshire	4	£324	£279pp
August 11	Gunton Hall, Suffolk + 50p Bar on last night	4	£239	£199pp
August 18	Lakeside, Hayling Island + 50p Bar on last night	4	£219	£199pp
August 25	Gunton Hall, Suffolk + 50p Bar on last night	4	£239	£199pp
August 25	~Norton Grange, Isle of Wight + 50p Bar on last nt	4	£229	£199pp
August 25	Lakeside, Hayling Island + free lunches Tues-Thurs	4	£219	£199pp
August 25	Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales	4	£309	£289pp
August 29	~Bembridge, Isle of Wight	3	£244	£199pp

~Norton Grange & Bembridge breaks include return car ferry *Warner price taken from their 2008 brochure

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PROPERTY NEWS

Cooperation could help house market

THE Home Builders Federation wants the Government to do more to help provide affordable homes to buyers across the UK.

Executive chairman Stewart Baseley said any moves in this direction would go some way to boosting the country's property market and provide greater confidence for both sellers and buyers.

He said that it was only the private sector which could help in this area by delivering homes which were at the right price for those looking to buy and ministers should ensure that they work as closely as possible with developers to assist them in any way possible.

"This will bring much needed confidence to the market," said Mr Baseley.

Housing minister Caroline Flint has unveiled moves in this direction with £270 million released through the Housing Corporation to build new homes.

The federation called this "a step in the right direction" but added more needs to be done.

Government targets for new homes include a total of 240,000 to be built across the UK each year by 2016.

Stable interest rate predicted by analyst

INTEREST rates in the UK will remain on hold at five per cent until the end of this year according to a leading economist.

Ross Walker of the Royal Bank of Scotland said the trend of rising inflation rates and a weakening economy will keep rates stable for the next five months at least.

He said in reference to decision making in today's economic climate: "The Monetary Policy Committee is stuck like the proverbial rabbit in the headlights."

But he added he felt there would be movement next year, most likely in the first quarter.

The Bank of England, which oversees interest rates in the UK, is looking at how best to combat the credit crunch which has combined with high oil prices and increased food prices to cause the economic downturn.

The final decision on interest rates is the responsibility of the bank's Monetary Policy Committee which agreed last week to hold rates at five per cent.



USEFUL PROJECT: Empty buildings are being renovated as housing – the initiative is so successful in east Kent that other district councils are joining the initiative

New homes from old

Scheme has seen almost 500 properties brought back to use

■ BY NICK AMES

A PLAN which is helping to create new homes across the county by bringing long-term empty properties back into use has exceeded its delivery target.

Following a pioneering programme it has spread countywide and is aimed at renovating derelict properties – which are both useless and an eyesore.

Launched in 2005, No Use Empty – the Kent Empty Property Initiative started as a partnership between Kent

County Council and East Kent coastal authorities including Dover, Shepway and Thanet.

Research had earlier revealed they had a large number of empty homes.

New figures just released reveal that in the past three years, almost 500 properties have been brought back into use as new, good quality homes and the remaining district councils from across the county have joined the initiative.

The initial three-year target for the number of empty properties to be returned to use was 372, and this figure has been surpassed by more than 30 per cent, with a total of 487 vacant properties given a new lease of life and turned into a home.

Roger Gough, cabinet member for regeneration at KCC, said: "Empty houses are a scourge on our local communities, preventing investment and regeneration, devaluing surrounding properties, attracting anti-social behaviour and depriving people of a much-needed home."

"In teaming up with local authorities from across the county, Kent has tackled this issue head-on, delivering outstanding results which prove this initiative is an effective and efficient approach to tackling empty housing."

"This success is a great testimony to the hard work and dedication of the No Use Empty project team, but especially the empty property officers from across the

local district councils.

"The initiative has been widely praised across the UK as a unique partnership between county and local councils and is a blueprint for other councils in the country to follow."

David Ireland, chief executive of the Empty Homes Agency, said: "No Use Empty has more than lived up to its early promise."

"Not only have the councils performed well, but the initiative has had a catalytic effect encouraging others to bring empty homes back into use."

"The numbers of empty homes in east Kent has dropped significantly over the past three years. We think that Kent has created a fantastic model that other parts of the country should follow."

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MAIDSTONE £215,000

An improved 1930's style semi adjacent to Mote Park and half a mile from Maidstone town centre. This home benefits from a re-fitted kitchen and bathroom. There is a driveway, garage. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



LADDINGFORD £227,500

A three bedroom semi detached home located in the rural village of Laddingford. There is a 20' double aspect living room, kitchen and utility room to the ground floor. GCH, DG, backs onto open land. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



MARSHAM STREET £169,950

A second floor two bedroom retirement apartment built by McCarthy & Stone in Maidstone town centre. Resident managers, lifts to all floors, communal lounge and social club. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



HEVER CLOSE £182,000

A nice sized family home! A cul-de-sac location, with its own driveway and garage, DSCR, lounge diner, kitchen, three good sized bedrooms and modern fitted bathroom suite. Agree to view today! Maidstone Office 01622 759891



LARKFIELD £159,950

Modern 2 bedroom 1st floor apartment with views to Leybourne Lakes. Balcony, ensuite shower room and a 16'2 x 13' living room. An internal viewing is essential and there is no forward chain. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



KENNINGTON CLOSE £189,995

Well presented semi-detached, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted GF shower room and 1st floor bathroom, 18' conservatory/family room and a 17' living room. An internal viewing is essential. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



BAMBRIDGE COURT £152,950

1st floor apartment located adjacent to the river Medway and Millennium River Park. The property has two bedrooms, one of which is ensuite. The apartment does require work and there is no forward chain. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



BAMBRIDGE COURT £160,000

2 bedroom 1st floor apartment with ensuite and balcony off the master bedroom. Balcony off the living room with views extending to the river Medway. Lift and allocated parking. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



SUTTON VALENCE £189,000

Detached bungalow with 2 double bedrooms, Shaker style kitchen. This property also benefits from double glazing and gas fired central heating. There is off road parking and a small enclosed level rear garden. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



WATERINGBURY £275,000

A semi detached ragstone cottage located off of the main road and in a popular Riverside village. Private ragstone walled courtyard garden. No forward chain. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



MILTON STREET £149,995

An older style bay fronted home with two double bedrooms and a spacious first floor family bathroom. There are two separate reception rooms both with feature gas living flame fire. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



BARMING OIEO £250,000

A super double storey extended non estate three bedroom semi. This home benefits from three double bedrooms and a family size bathroom to the first floor. Downstairs shower room, GCH, DG. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



POSTLEY ROAD OIEO £155,000

3 bedroom home located just south of Maidstone town and available with no forward chain. GCH, DG. There are two separate reception rooms, cellar and a rear garden of approximately 45'. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



RIVER BANK CLOSE OIEO £130,000

A top floor two bedroom apartment in Maidstone town centre with the benefit of a lift. This property must be viewed at your earliest opportunity and is offered with no forward chain. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



SHEALS CRESCENT £155,000

A three bedroom bay fronted terraced home with two reception rooms, 16' kitchen and cellar. There are three separate bedrooms, bathroom to the first floor and approximately 50' rear garden. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



SUTTON HEIGHTS £219,995

A well presented three bedroom terraced house situated in a cul-de-sac location. The property benefits from a cloakroom, family bathroom and a 13' ensuite bathroom along with a 16' lounge. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



SUTTON ROAD OIEO £310,000

A modern detached family home offering flexible and spacious accommodation with no forward chain. There are four/five bedrooms, two bathrooms and a shower room on the first floor. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



TESTON £149,995

An outstanding location with extensive views over the Farleigh Valley and breathtaking Kentish Countryside. This first floor one bedroom apartment is set in extensive landscaped grounds. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



TUFTON STREET £139,995

An improved Victorian style terraced home with contemporary styling but retaining many original features. This home is located in the town centre and has no forward chain. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



UNION STREET £169,950

A unique four bedroom terraced home in a courtyard style development in Maidstone town centre. The accommodation is arranged over three floors and has a modern kitchen. Maidstone Office 01622 759891



SUTTON VALENCE £425,000

A well presented home built in 2007 by Brazier Homes, one of only three in this select development on the outskirts of the historic village of Sutton Valence. The property has views to the front. Maidstone Office 01622 759891

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Weaving £275,000
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Bearsted £250,000
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Weaving £239,995
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Tovil OIEO £210,000
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Maidstone £209,995
No onward chain, 3 bed semi-detached house over 3 floors, 2 receptions.
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Lenham £209,950
Two Bedrooms, two reception rooms, attic rooms, no chain.
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Downswood £199,950
3 bed semi-detached, UPVC d.g., gas fired central heating, garage and parking.
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Maidstone £189,995
3 bed extended end of terrace, gas fired central heating, garage en-bloc, no chain.
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Maidstone £179,995
Three bedroom terraced, UPVC double glazing, gas central heating, garage.
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Maidstone £179,000
Three bedroom terrace house, warm air central heating, garage en-bloc, no chain.
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2 bedroom modern retirement 3rd floor apartment, no chain, DG, CH, communal gardens, lounges and parking, lifts and stairs to all floors.

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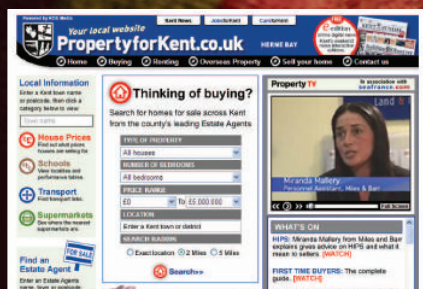


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MOTORS NEWS



Greenest Fiesta comes with go-faster stripes

FORD will use next week's British International Motor Show at Excel, London (July 23-August 3) as the launch pad for an all-new and even more pivotal Fiesta model.

The original car was launched in 1976 and the latest generation will feature some of the greenest ever versions of the long-running hatchback.

Ironically, for these tough motoring times though, it will be one of the raciest looking Fiestas ever.

It goes on sale in October in both three and five-door forms.



Twingo's sporty twist ready for September

RENAULT'S new Twingo may have been upstaged by the arrival of the Fiat 500, but dealers are taking orders for September delivery of this sporting flagship wearing charismatic 'Renaultsport' performance branding.

The £11,550 Twingo Renaultsport 133 has a 1.6-litre petrol engine, with standard kit including Renaultsport tuned chassis plus electronic stability control, 16-inch alloys and a suitably sporty interior with Renaultsport front seats and orange seatbelts. Renault might yet add a turbocharger to create an ultimate model later on, though.



New eco-friendly 4x4 is Audi's posh creation

AUDI will slot a smaller SUV into its line-up later this year.

The Q5 will sit below the big Q7 and should be a leisure 4x4 more suited to straitened times, while offering a prestige badge and style.

The German executive marque claims the newcomer combines the poise of a sports saloon with the flexibility of a performance SUV (sports utility vehicle) and will be suitable for all seasons and all surfaces.

Prices are expected to start at £30,000.



DREAM MACHINE: It may be some time before residual values of the Alfa Romeo 159 Sportwagon can match those of German rivals, but there is hope where none existed before

Alfa striking right chord with this classy number

IS the Alfa Romeo 159 Sportwagon the ultimate estate car for style?

Based on the gorgeous-looking saloon, this 'liftback' model just oozes class, from the distinctive 'shield' grille and flanking array of lamps to the sharply cut short overhang back end.

Of course, like most so-called 'lifestyle estates' it isn't the ultimate load carrier space-wise, but the marriage of extra practicality with looks is hard to beat.

Omens are also good for the lifetime of this handsome lifestyle wagon; after several much heralded new, but eventually false dawns on the durability front, this latest Alfa family model seems to wear well.

Okay, it might be some time before residual values match German rivals, but there is hope where none existed before.

As always with an Alfa it is also easy to silence nagging doubts inside the head by pulling on the heart strings as you fire up the engine and head for the open road, especially when the model in question is the £27,850 flagship 159 2.4-litre diesel Sportwagon in Lusso spec with all-wheel drive, as tested here.

ROAD TEST ALFA ROMEO 159

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

This is an Audi Quattro Avant with Italian style and flair and, based on experience with more humdrum 159 models, this is where you want to be if you can afford it.

Well-designed leather upholstery and extra toys suit the thoroughbred class of the Italian headturner.

The engine can be gruff, but 210bhp and ample low down torque can be applied beautifully via the Q4 system – Alfa's trade name for its 'quattro' equivalent.

The result is a taut driver's car without ride discomfort – a sporting estate with everyday family appeal.

Even the interior has sufficient style without the silly attempts at individualism that have marred Alfas of the past.

There is also decent head and legroom in the back plus clever stowage in the boot even if the six-CD autochanger is to be found there rather than in the dashboard.

Yes, the 159 range (from £18,550) is a milestone for the Italian brand – a buyer's head and heart can be in harmony at last on this classy number.

• Email steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk



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USED CAR ROUND-UP: OUR PICK FROM A KEY SECTOR

POPULAR SUPERMINIS

As more people downsize their car and their fuel and road tax bills, chances are that one or all of the following popular used superminis will be on their shopping list. Year in, year out they are the UK's most consistent best-sellers – a trend expected to become even firmer in the current economic climate. A word of warning though; as second-hand prices harden, make sure you don't pay more than it would cost to keep your old car longer or even make you think about a new car.

FORD FIESTA



FORD'S hugely successful supermini marches on with a new model at the end of this summer, but don't expect a weakening in used prices; the credit crunch, rising fuel prices and draconian road taxes have made the Fiesta a top target for its reliability, decent driving experience, engines to suit all pockets and three and five-door body styles. Ford has also regularly produced special and limited editions laden with extra goodies, offering plenty more choice – at a price.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

VAUXHALL CORSA



VAUXHALL'S Corsa was created to attack the Ford Fiesta head on, yet has never quite achieved the volumes of its rival. Nevertheless, it offers the same virtues, plus a greater range of engines including a punchy and frugal, if a little buzzy, three-cylinder petrol engine now in greater demand due to these straitened times. Several generations of Corsa followed a 'teardrop' body style, but the latest car is bigger and more aggressively sculpted – almost a 'supersize supermini'.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

RENAULT CLIO



DOWNSIZING can be sensible and chic with the Clio and the most recent generations have married durability and driving fun with Gallic charm. Again, the option or three or five doors is a big selling point, but our French contender also has the bonus of excellent diesel versions, though the cost of the actual fuel versus petrol argues against it currently. The Clio design has tended to be highly practical as well as charming, with good space for rear passengers.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

CORSA From £4995

0404 Corsa 1.3Cdti Design 3dr Energy Sapphire Black 30000mils	£4,995.00
0404 Corsa 1.3Cdti Design 5dr Star Silver 28000mils	£5,495.00
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0707 New Corsa 1.2 16v Club 3dr Sapphire Black 11000mils	£7,995.00
0707 New Corsa 1.3Cdti Design 3dr Sapphire Black 12000mils	£9,650.00
0757 New Corsa 1.2 16v Club 3dr With Air Con Choice of 2	£8,650.00
0757 New Corsa 1.4 16v Sxi 3dr With Air Con choice of colours	£8,850.00

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0606 New Tigra 1.8 16v Exclusive Sapphire Black Black Leather	£9,995.00
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0505 Astra 1.8 16v Exclusive Cabriolet Sapphire Black Black Leather	£7,850.00
0505 Astra 1.8 16v Exclusive Cabriolet Silver Lightning	£8,995.00

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0454 New Astra 2.0 16v Turbo 5dr Sdr Ultra Blue 28000mils	£7,850.00
0505 New Astra 1.6 16v design 5dr Silver Lightning 27000mils	£7,495.00
0707 New Astra 1.6 16v Sxi 5dr Metro Blue 6800mils	£9,995.00
0757 New Astra 1.6 16v Sxi 5dr Sapphire Black 12000mils	£9,650.00
0757 New Astra 1.6 16v Energy 5dr Choice of Colours	£9,995.00
0757 New Astra 1.8 Sri XP 5dr Choice of 2	£11,650.00

NEW ASTRA SPORT HATCH From £8995

0505 New Astra 1.8 16v Sri Sport hatch Star Silver 40000mils	£8,995.00
0505 New Astra 1.8 16v Sri Sport Hatch with Exterior Pack	£9,995.00
0656 New Astra 2.0 16v T Sri Sport hatch with Exterior Pack	£12,995.00

MERIVA From £6995

0505 Meriva 1.8 16v Design Star Silver 33000mils	£6,995.00
NEW MERIVA From £8995	
0757 New Meriva 1.4 16v Energy Sapphire Black 6000mils	£8,995.00

VECTRA From £5995

0454 Vectra 1.8 16v Life 5dr Silver Lightning 22000mils	£5,995.00
0454 Vectra 2.0Dti Design 5dr Star Silver 29000mils	£7,995.00

NEW VECTRA From £6995

0505 New Vectra 2.0Dti Club 5dr Silver Lightning 31000mils	£6,995.00
0606 New Vectra 1.8 16v Exclusive 5dr Pomegranite Red	£8,995.00
0606 New Vectra 1.8 16v Design 4dr Star Silver 24000mils	£9,495.00

NEW SIGNUM From £16995

0757 New Signum 1.9Cdti 150 Exclusive Auto Silver Lightning	£16,995.00
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ZAFIRA From £6795

0404 Zafira 1.8 16v Life Kings Blue 29000mils	£6,795.00
0454 Zafira 2.0Dti Design Silver Lightning 43000mils	£7,995.00

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0505 New Zafira 1.9Cdti 120 Club Pannacotta 35000mils	£9,995.00
0606 New Zafira 1.6 16v Club Flame Red 21000mils	£8,450.00
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0808 New Zafira 1.6 16v Breeze+Star Silver 1000mils	£12,295.00

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0555 Monaro 5.7V8 Black with Black Leather 22000mils	£14,850.00
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0808 Tigra 1.4 Sapphire Black Alloys delivery miles	£11,995.00
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0757 Combo Crewvan 1.7Dti Glacier White	
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0757 Antara 2.0Cdti S Granite Black 5dr	£14,995.00
0757 New Zafira 1.9Cdti (150) Auto Design Panoramic Roof	£15,995.00
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0808 Antara 2.0Cdti Se Auto Immscher Body Kit Nickel Silver	£16,995.00

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0454 Toyota Hi Ace 280SWB Red 24000mils	£24,995.00
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0707 New Astravan 1.3 Cdti Club Glacier White 30000mils	£7,995.00
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SPIDER, 3.2 V6, g577ly, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, remote central locking, side airbags, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, blue, 9000 miles, £24995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

146 TI, 5 door, p 1996, a car that will one day become a collectors item. It has the 2.0 engine which produces 150bhp, along with a 5 speed manual gearbox: a test drive is welcome as well as any inspection. px is available against this car. red, 94000 miles, £1495, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

147 JTD Q2, g577ge, alloy wheels, anti-lock brakes, climate control, drivers airbag, electric windows, passenger airbag, spill/folding rear seats, tinted glass, traction control, trip computer, grey, 14000 miles, £13995, Thames Group Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

AUDI

A4, 1.8T S Line Saloon 4d 1781cc (2004), m04th, climate control, immobiliser, radio / cd, height adjustable driver's seat, front & side airbags, black metallic, 88600 miles, £10995, E-SURE Cars UK, Broadstairs, 0845 6447751 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

CAPTIVA, LTX 2.0, g080rw, finished in denim blue with black interior, blue, 4000 miles, £22995, Calfyns Chevrolet 1 Wells, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

CITROEN

CITROEN BERLINGO 800, 04 2005, 1.9d lx side door white pas 43000 miles fsh lined, £4350, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

DAEWOO

DAEWOO NUBIRA 4 door saloon, 06 2000, 1.6 p se mot july 08, 0 miles, £500, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

FIAT

FIAT DUCATO 11 mwb, 11 2005, 2.3 jtd hi 39,000 miles fsh shelled lined one owner driver elec pack, £3495, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

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FORD

FORD CONNECT T200, 11 2005, 1.8 tddi swb white side door 67,000 miles fsh, £4995, Beaver Commercial, Ashford, 01233 634763 (TRADE)

ESCORT, 1.8TDI LX, 1998, insurance group 8 3 owners service history central locking drivers airbag power steering immobiliser, toumalard green, 70000 miles, £1899, A 1 Carriages, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

ESCORT, FINESSE xdr, x376ge, central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, 15" alloys, blue, 33000 miles, £2499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Freestyle 16v 3dr, y78kn, immobiliser, power steering, central locking, electric windows, air conditioning, air bag, cloth upholstery, head restraints, cd player, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, moon dust silver, 59000 miles, £3499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Zetec 5dr, 736461, central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, 14" alloys, black, 85000 miles, £1799, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Zetec-S 3dr, 393461, immobiliser, power steering, electric windows, air bag, cloth upholstery, head restraints, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, 15" alloys, racing blue, 80000 miles, £4299, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Freestyle 16v 3dr, y78kn, immobiliser, power steering, central locking, electric windows, air conditioning, air bag, cloth upholstery, head restraints, cd player, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, moon dust silver, 59000 miles, £3499, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Zetec 5dr, 736461, central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, 14" alloys, black, 85000 miles, £1799, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Zetec-S 3dr, 393461, immobiliser, power steering, electric windows, air bag, cloth upholstery, head restraints, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, 15" alloys, racing blue, 80000 miles, £4299, Marshams, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

SOVEREIGN, 4.0 Saloon 4d 3980cc auto, p 1997, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central alarm, remote central locking, air conditioning, radio cassette system, cruise control, cream interior leather, electric seats, memory seats, alloy wheels, front fog lamps, colour coded body, lots of service history, metallic silver/grey, miles, £3995, Westbrook Cars, Canterbury, 01227 710685 (TRADE)

XJ6, Leather, 1967 "r", jaguar xj6 3.2 full service history, you must come and see this car to believe just how good it is, lot, 106000 miles, £1995, Courtenay Cars, Charing, Ashford, 01233 714848 (TRADE)

JEEP

GRAND CHEROKEE, 1997, green, 180000 miles, £2995, County Car Sales, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

KIA

CARENS, 2.0 CRDI LS [7 Seat] Diesel, 2007, insurance group 10 abs alarm alloy wheels body coloured bumpers climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric door mirrors height adjustable drivers seat immobiliser passenger airbag power steering radio/cd rear electric windows remote central locking reverse parking aid roof rails side airbags steering wheel rake adjustment trip computer, pure silver, 13110 miles, £11995, Masters Bromley Kia, Beckenham, 0208 662 6133 (TRADE)

SEDONA, 1. CRDI, g54 ltn, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote central locking, alarm, height adjustable seat, electric front windows, twin air bags, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, dual climate zones, red, 43900 miles, £5995, Kings Highway Garage Ltd, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 90 TD5 Heritage County Station Wagon, 10903054, full leather, side steps, sunroof, remote alarm, power steering, rear wash/wipe, tow pack, cd player, alloy wheels, 4x4, road tax is £185 per year on this vehicle, bronze green, 70000 miles, £14995, Diesel Centre, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 130 Double Cab Alloy Dropside with Atlas Crane, 10033180, power steering, tow pack, 4x4, direct from utilities company only 38,000 miles, 6 seats, double cab with alloy dropside (removable sides can be flat bed) with atlas crane in excellent working order, warm winch, 1 years mot'd, white, £12000, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 110 TD5 County Double Cab Pick Up, du542pj, alarm, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power steering, rear wash/wipe, side steps, tow pack, electric front windows, cd player, 16" alloys, 4x4, cubby box, full landrover service history, alveston red, 27000 miles, £13000, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 110 Hard-Top TD5, vn03yt, power steering, rear wash/wipe, tow pack, radio cassette, 4x4, 1 previous owner, full service history, 3 x front seats, white, 83000 miles, £7000, BHRV, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, g005axa, finished in black with interior, black, 34000 miles, £7995, Calfyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, DYNAMI 1, g04xms, finished in silver with interior, silver, 35000 miles, £4449, Calfyns Tunbridge Wells Vauxhall, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 515700 (TRADE)

LAGUNA, DYNAMIQUE 2.0 AUTO, 2005, trim: cloth engine size: 2000 Transmission: automatic no. of doors: 5, silver, 20000 miles, £7495, Palm Bay, Margate, 01843 298554 (TRADE)

SEAT

ALHAMBRA, SX TDI 1.9 130PS 5dr MPV, mar 2004, g04wlg, one previous keeper, full service history, radio/cassette, single cd player, twin & side airbags, abs brakes, engine immobiliser, car alarm, cruise control, electric door mirrors, cool box, tinted glass, rear wash/wipe, adj. steering column, seat height adjuster, seven seats, 2 x integrated child seats, indigo blue metallic, 46,500 miles, £11,795, Hollis Motors, Dover, 01304 206710 (TRADE)

LEON, 1.9TDI Stylance Hatchback 5dr, 08/2008, fog lights tinted windows climate control cruise control alloy wheels rear parking sensors & much more!!!, black magic, 1,000 miles, £14,445, Chertion Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

IBIZA, 1.2 SX 3dr, h548v, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, driver airbag, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, insurance group 3, blue, 23800 miles, £4994, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 0844 5762476 (TRADE)

IBIZA, 1.4 DAB 5dr, g16buek, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, insurance group 5, yellow, 8032 miles, £7494, SMC Mitsubishi Sittingbourne, Sittingbourne, 0844 5762476 (TRADE)

IBIZA, 1.4 S 3dr, 2000, 1.4 s 3dr hatch, blue, 62022 miles, £2695, Masters Citroen, Penze, 0208 659 0909 (TRADE)

IBIZA, 1.9TDI 100 Sportfrier Hatchback 3dr 1886cc (2008), 08/2008, alloy wheels remote c/locking electric mirrors steering audio controls radio/cd player a/con fog lights, black magic, delivery miles, £3555, Chertion Motor House, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)



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- TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, AVIATION

Senior & General Appointments 38-42

Public Notices 42

Teaching Assistant/Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Post: Teaching Assistant/HLTA
Start Date: September 2008
Hours: 25 per week - term time only
Pay scale: KS3 - Teaching Assistant
 KS7 - for HLTA hours

We are looking for an experienced teaching assistant who wishes to advance their career to become an HLTA or an existing HLTA to join the team at Victoria Road Primary. The primary focus of the post will be to work under the direction of a teacher as part of the professional team to support learning activities for pupils. When qualified as an HLTA, they would deliver lessons set by or with teachers.

The successful candidate will have achieved a recognised qualification at level 2 or above in English/Literacy, Maths/Numeracy and be computer literate.

Victoria Road is a "Good" school (Ofsted July 2007) and has a friendly learning environment, and a good relationship with parents and the local community. The children are enthusiastic and well behaved.

If you are interested in this post, please contact Mrs Liz Steele for an application pack by phoning 01233 620044 or email school@victoria-road.kent.sch.uk. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check.

Closing Date: 21st July 2008
Interview Date: 25th July 2008
Start Date: September 2008

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Please apply in writing enclosing CV to:
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 Springhead Road, Northfleet,
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accounts@tube-gear.com

Elmside Garage requires a
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 Beckenham, Kent BR3 3QY
 or email steven.styles@elmsideskoda.co.uk

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Visit our website www.drakeandfletcher.co.uk for further information on these roles.

Please either apply via our website or send your CV with a covering letter to: Jo Murray, HR Manager, Drake & Fletcher, Dowling Way, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 3DS

Male or Female Senior Support Worker
 Vacancy available at our Residential Home in Sheerness

NVQ Level 3 required.
 This post will involve up to two sleep-ins per week. Will need to have 6 months experience working with ALD. Clean British driving licence required.

For further information telephone 01795 841220
 Contact Administrative Assistant / Lisa Allen
 Previous applicant need not apply

Foster Carers Required

FosterCare UK requires additional foster carers for children in need in your area. Are you an experienced foster carer? Or are you just thinking of fostering as a new career? You must have fostering and/or skills in working with children and be prepared to work to high standards with a challenging group of young people.

We are currently seeking carers with experience of or an interest in caring for:

- Teenagers/13+ age range
- Siblings groups
- Children with high needs in relation to physical disabilities
- Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders
- Young people seeking asylum in this country
- Young people remanded to the care of their local authority
- A young person, who is a parent or about to become a parent

You must:

- Have children no younger than 8 years old living at home
- Have a supportive network of family and friends

- Be over 25, single or a couple
- Have at least one spare bedroom
- Be prepared to attend monthly comprehensive training
- Be able to work to high standards with a diverse group of young people

We offer:

- Stakeholder pension
- Three weeks paid respite
- A comprehensive training and development programme
- 24 hour support from an experienced and child focused team
- A professional fee of up to £420.00 per week for each child
- Golden hello and annual retention payments
- Activity and holiday allowances

If you want to work from home, make a difference to a young person's life and are looking for a rewarding role, then come along to one of our information sessions. There will be a presentation and an opportunity to find out more about fostering.

Still thinking about it?

We have set new service standards in the way we recruit, assess, train and support our foster carers. Our practice, focus and attention to detail ensure that the child is always at the centre of what we do.

Call: 0844 800 1941

fostercareuk
 OPEN EVENINGS

Tuesday 15th July
 Ashford International Hotel, Kent

Thursday 17th July
 Pfizer Social Club, Sandwich, Kent

Tuesday 22nd July
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The College lies in a picturesque part of West Kent, with a 256 hectare campus boasting an enviable array of facilities to enable students to maximise learning and gain realistic experience of the workplace for their future careers.
A £55 million capital project is planned over the next 2 years, aimed at building the best facilities of their kind in the Country.

Assistant to the Head of Quality & Staff Development £19,123 to £21,762 per annum

This high profile role will provide a wide range of administrative and secretarial support to the Head of Quality & Staff Development and contribute to the effective implementation of quality systems and monitoring of teaching and learning across the College.

The successful candidate will have good, current secretarial and administrative skills with experience of setting up and maintaining record keeping systems, have excellent IT, communication and organisational skills as well as the ability to work on their own initiative and as part of a team. Previous experience of working in Education and supporting at a senior management level would also be an advantage.

Trainee Registry Administrator £11,580 to £13,777 per annum

This is an exciting opportunity for someone with a genuine interest in administration work who also wants the opportunity to undertake training in order to achieve a Level 2 Business Administration or Customer Service National Vocational Qualification.

The role will include a range of administration and customer service duties involving student data, registers of attendance, student admissions and enrolment, student absence monitoring and examinations. The postholder will be responsible for distributing the incoming post, assisting with the preparation of the outgoing post and providing support and cover for the College Front Desk and switchboard.

The successful candidate will need to be a team player with a flexible approach and the ability to work on their own initiative. Good administration, customer service, communication and organisational skills are essential as are strong IT skills.

To receive an information pack and application form please telephone the Human Resources Department on 01732 850551 or e-mail 'jobs@hadlow.ac.uk'.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 25th July 2008.

Visit Hadlow College at www.hadlow.ac.uk

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a home



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Part Time Outreach Coordinator
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Hours to be negotiated (one year contract)
£18,239-£19,642 pro rata (pay award pending)
Ref 367/KOS

Closing date 18th July 2008. Interview date 29th July 2008.
For an informal discussion contact Julianne Garner on 07763 108191

a job



Support Workers Supported Living (2 posts)
Staplehurst
37 hrs per week
£15,760-£16,603 (pay award pending)
Ref 363/KOS

Closing date 21st July 2008. Interview date 6th August 2008.
For an informal discussion contact Bill Wood on 07858 757288.

For further information visit or to apply on line visit www.mcch.co.uk.
For application forms and job descriptions call our recruitment line on 0845 370 3037. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.

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Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Curriculum Co-ordinator Mechanical Engineering – First and National Diplomas in Mechanical Engineering
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £26,365 per annum

Post Ref: 08/77

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based
18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 07/04

Lecturer Hospitality and Catering
27.75 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 04/154

Lecturer Access to HE
18.5 hrs per week, 2 years fixed term.
Salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 08/97

Lecturer in Journalism
18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 08/55

Pre 16 Tutor
18.5 hrs per week, fixed term post ending 31 August 2010.
Salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 07/16

Supply Lecturers in Animal Care and Land Based Studies
Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: S/AL

Supply Lecturers in Equine Studies
Various hours available, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: S/EQ

Trainer Demonstrator Animal Care and Land Based
18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: TD13

Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of ICT/ Retail & Commercial/ Leisure & Tourism/ Catering/ Business & Law
37 hrs per week, 38 weeks per year term time.
Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 08/66

Learning Resources Assistant
7.5 hrs per week, 1 year fixed term, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: LRCA1

Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and Adult Learning Grant Assistant
18.5 hrs per week, 40 weeks per year term time. Fixed term to 31 August 2009.
Salary starting £14,535 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: EMA

Curriculum Support Assistant within the Faculty of Agriculture/ Horticulture and Animal Care
18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks per year term time.
Salary starting from £18,375 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 04/118

Resource Assistant Animal Care and Land Based
18.5 hrs per week, salary range starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum

Post Ref: 06/08

Assistant Head Chef
37 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 per annum

Post Ref: RC01

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.
The closing date for the above posts is Monday 21st July 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall and Gym
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme

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This dynamic Practice is seeking bright and enthusiastic team players with excellent design and technical skills to join an established team, working on a variety of very interesting ongoing projects. Successful candidates will need to be proficient in AutoCAD and Photoshop programs, together with the dedication and desire to exceed expectations.

Salary range will be by negotiation

To apply, please send your CV to Hannah Everest at the above address.

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Sheppey College is part of Canterbury College. Canterbury College is a leading FE and HE College which offers opportunities and an environment in which our 800 staff and 12,000 learners can reach their potential, so we can achieve our goal of being one of the best Colleges by 2010. To support this, the College has been undergoing a £50 million re-development, which opened in January 2008. We are now developing plans for Phase 3, for completion in 2012.

Lecturer Construction – Trowel Occupations and Key Skills
18.5 hrs per week, salary range £17,816 - £25,545 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: 08/72

Academic Support Assistant
18.5 hrs per week, salary starting from £14,535 pro rata per annum
Post Ref: 08/74

For an application pack please visit www.cant-col.ac.uk or call the Personnel Office on 01227 811282 (24hr answerphone) quoting the post reference.

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 21st July 2008 at 12 noon.

Staff benefits include:

- Pensions and Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to Mainbus / Train Stations
- Staff Discount Scheme

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Foster carers wanted

The Caldecott Foundation, which cares for vulnerable children who have experienced extreme trauma and disruption, seeks dedicated and highly motivated foster carers. Comprehensive training and support given, plus excellent rates of pay.
Contact Jamie Bromfield or Erica Eversfield on 01303 815648 or email fostering@caldecottfoundation.co.uk



The Caldecott Foundation, Smethth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SP.

The Cornwallis suite Maidstone has a vacancy for a permanent **part-time cook/kitchen assistant** to work in our busy function venue. Duties to include food prep, cooking in the absence of the Chef & other kitchen duties. The successful applicant will need to be flexible with working hours, have previous experience of working in a busy catering environment & committed to providing high quality food. Experienced Silver service waiting staff also required. September start. Please email CV to grubnstuffcatering@tiscali.co.uk

ADMIN ASSISTANT/BOOKEEPER

Part time 20hrs. Previous office experience, computer literate. Quick Books knowledge. Motivated with a sense of humour. Pay dep. on exp. To apply: send cv to Anna mail@firstchoiceservicesltd.co.uk

IT Network Technician salary circa £20k

We require a knowledgeable and highly adaptable individual to provide a fast and efficient IT service for our 5 servers, 140 workstations and 55 printer and copiers.

Our IT capability will expand to keep pace with our business needs and you will need previous experience of a similar role.

The post is full time (an average of 37 hours per week) with extensive travel to all Demelza locations and a degree of flexible working.

You must demonstrate:-

- Ability to install and working knowledge of microsoft applications
- Knowledge of hardware, fault diagnostics and repair
- Good communication skills
- A problem solving mentality and flexible approach to changing priorities
- Database skills would be an advantage.

For an informal chat call Steve Winch, Facilities Manager on 01795 845227 for an application pack please call our recruitment line on 01795 845295.

Closing Date 23rd July, 2008

www.demelza.org.uk

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**BSF Project Managers**

Starting salary £35,370, with progression through contribution related pay to £40,705 pa
Brenchley House, Maidstone

The Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Team is part of a dynamic team responsible for delivering the Kent BSF and Academies programme for Kent County Council.

Kent County Council was successful in obtaining funding through the national BSF programme which will see investment through a mix of new build and refurbishment of all secondary schools in Kent. For the purposes of delivering the programme KCC is currently undergoing a procurement process to select a private sector partner to deliver all of the construction projects to the secondary estate in Gravesham, Thanet and Swale. Following the conclusion of the first procurement, KCC intends to procure a further two partners who will deliver to the rest of the County.

We are seeking to appoint two Project Managers (Site Liaison/Construction) to join this high profile team. You will be responsible for providing input during the procurement and lead up to construction works, management of the interface between the Contractor, KCC and schools during the construction phase, decant and building handover.

You will work with the existing KCC BSF/PFI and Academies Team, its external advisors, schools and other local stakeholders, as well as with Partnerships for Schools (PFS) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) to ensure that local proposals facilitate delivery of the national objectives.

You will have excellent organisational, communication and negotiation skills. You will need to demonstrate motivation, and the ability to work on your own or as part of a team. Previous experience of working with or within a construction environment as well as a current understanding of the Education sector is essential, with previous experience in procurement or the public sector an advantage.

Ref: CFHE/08/0283

Closing date: Midday, 24th July 2008.

Interview date: 12th August 2008.

Westwood Centre, Margate

All places are fixed term until August 2009

Team Leader

Starting salary £29,920, with progression through contribution related pay to £35,370 pa

Do you have experience of and commitment to working with young people, and could you support and offer guidance to other colleagues?

If so, you will be a team leader who is bright, full of ideas and enjoys using their initiative, joining our dedicated and highly effective staff team.

The primary function of this role is to manage and support the Kent Safe Schools Alternative Curriculum Provision at the Westwood Centre. We are developing an innovative project designed to meet the holistic educational needs of those who have been identified at risk of permanent exclusion in Key Stage Four within an off-school setting for fifty young people.

This potentially challenging yet highly rewarding role will encourage an organised, innovative and young person's focussed approach to education, working effectively with the curriculum to provide core subjects, vocational experiences and the development of an inclusive approach to wider supportive services and the extended schools agenda.

The role will include working alongside staff, agencies, schools, communities, parents and young people to identify opportunities to establish robust working partnerships. You will manage the provision of full time education for the young people and also have a shared responsibility for supporting other staff in a similar area, with a particular focus on the co-ordination of services, induction and training.

We are looking for applicants with a good understanding of educational issues who possess experience of working with young people, specifically in the secondary sector.

Ref: CFHE/08/0272

Project Officer

Starting salary £22,825, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,159 pa
pro-rata term time

5 posts available with the possibility of one post becoming an 18.5 hour job share between two people

Do you have experience of working in an innovative way and with a committed approach toward the education of young people?

We are seeking candidates who are keen to rise to the daily challenges in providing high quality and innovative education programmes through a broad spectrum of subjects and experiences.

The main elements of this role are to directly design and deliver engaging and exciting educational programmes and sessions. We are developing an innovative project designed to meet the holistic educational needs of those who have been identified at risk of permanent exclusion in Key Stage Four within an off-school setting for fifty young people.

These challenging, yet highly rewarding roles will need an organised and innovative person who is focussed to education. You will work effectively with the curriculum to provide core subjects, vocational experiences and the development of an inclusive approach to wider supportive services and the extended schools agenda. An open approach to deliver across a spectrum of subject areas is preferable and may include the design and delivery of schemes of work based around our dedicated areas of specialism that include: Motor Vehicle Engineering, Construction, IT, Carpentry, Art and Music.

The role will include working alongside other staff members, agencies, schools, communities and parents to maximise young peoples learning opportunities and to establish robust working partnerships.

We are looking for applicants with a good understanding of educational issues who possess experience of working with young people, specifically in the secondary sector.

Ref: CFHE/08/0271

Project Assistant

Starting salary £13,959, with progression through contribution related pay to £15,826 pa
pro-rata term time

4 Posts with the possibility of an 18.5 hour job share for the equivalent of one post

Kent Safe Schools have successfully secured a bid to support permanently excluded young people through alternative education programmes.

The main function of this role is to work as part of a wider staff team supporting the direct learning and education of the young people within the Kent Safe Schools Alternative Curriculum Provision at the Westwood Centre. We are developing an innovative project designed to meet the holistic educational needs of those who have been identified at risk of permanent exclusion in Key Stage Four within an off-school setting for fifty young people.

We are looking for applicants with a good understanding of educational issues and who possess experience of working with young people, specifically in the secondary sector.

You will be a flexible Project Assistant with commitment, vision and passion who can be a key part of the staff team. Additionally, you will support the delivery of a broad-based curriculum aimed at targeting up to 50 young people at Key Stage 4, complementing other professional disciplines.

The aims of the teams' work will be the maintenance and development of young people towards recognised qualifications and learning outcomes.

Ref: CFHE/08/0273

Closing date for all three posts: Midday, 18th July 2008.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904.

Please quote relevant reference number.



www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

Ashford Christ Church

Headteacher: Catherine Barber
Millbank Road, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent TN23 3HG

Headteacher and Board of Governors are seeking to recruit a passionate, hardworking and dedicated

CHAPLAIN

Ashford Christ Church wears its Christian shield to protect the needs of the vulnerable, challenge the hearts of the disaffected and motivate the minds of the minority who society choose to misjudge. We require a committed Christian Minister to work within our mission field providing opportunities for the young people to deepen their spirituality, realise their God given talents and sing God's praises into every corner of our community.

HEAR THE CALLING?**RESPOND TODAY**

This is a new and exciting developmental opportunity for a Chaplain to provide a wide range of pastoral support and guidance to the students and staff at Ashford Christ Church.

Whilst the Chaplain does not necessarily need to be a qualified teacher, experience in education and Section 48 inspection would be desirable. In particular we are looking for the following:

- A good communicator
- Motivator and Inspiring leader with drive and enthusiasm
- A friendly and compassionate character
- Self-motivated and professional in approach.

Visit our website: www.ashfordchristchurch.com

For further information and an application pack please contact HR Officer Samantha Sullivan at samanthasullivan@ashfordchristchurch.com

Telephone: 01233 623465 or Fax 01233 636861

Appointment is subject to Enhanced CRB check.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL****Housing Services, Planning & Communities SUPPORTED HOUSING TEAM LEADER**

£29,544 to £34,899 plus Essential User Car Allowance

Shepway Housing Services are making changes to the way services are delivered to our tenants in Supported Housing and the wider community. As a result an exciting opportunity has arisen for the newly created post of Supported Housing Team Leader. We are seeking an exceptional and innovative person to lead our team of 12 Supported Housing Officers.

Applicants will have sound knowledge of the Supporting People Framework, Supported Housing and working with older people. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 2 years in a role that demonstrates the ability to motivate and lead members of a dispersed workforce, encouraging their staff to work on their own initiative and as part of the team. A sound, in depth knowledge of both statutory, voluntary agencies and partnership working will also be required.

You must be passionate about providing a service that makes a difference to the lives of our service users; be a confident communicator, with an enthusiastic, proactive, energetic approach plus a car owner / driver. You will also have a good working knowledge of Control Centres, Telecare and their applications.

The successful applicant will be required to undergo both an enhanced CRB and Airwaves check. Supported Housing provides a 24 hour, 365 days a year service therefore flexibility and willingness to work other than office hours on occasions is essential.

For an informal discussion about this post contact Shelley Squance on 01303 853186 or Angela Vince on 01303 853184.

Applications details can be downloaded at www.shepway.gov.uk or email: jobs@shepway.gov.uk or call our 24 hour answer phone service on 01303 853481

Closing date for completed applications is Friday 1 August 2008

Shepway District Council
Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY
Tel: 01303 853000
www.shepway.gov.uk

Folkestone
Hythe & Romney Marsh
Shepway District Council
www.shepway.gov.uk

Shepway District Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of race, colour, age, sex or disability.



A great place to work.

Our services aren't the same, so neither are our people.

Rail Plant Driver/Operator

Our client is a leading Contractor / Service provider working on behalf of a major rail network in the south east region.

As part of their programme of maintenance on the CTRL, they have a current requirement for a Driver / Operator for their on track machinery, which provides working platforms for essential night-work repairs and servicing to be carried out. Responsibilities include the movement and operation of maintenance trains and machinery in a safety critical environment. Previous experience of working in the rail industry is essential and a working knowledge of mechanical and electrical plant or equipment would be an advantage.

A competitive salary & benefits package is offered.

Please contact:

David Housden or Peter Moore

Tel: 01233 658020

Email: buildingservices@rhl.co.uk



tvone The Video Processing Specialists

TV One Ltd is a leading UK manufacturer of Audio & Video conversion products for the Pro AV, Broadcast and Live Events markets.

We are looking for an experienced embedded software designer to enhance our R&D team. Your role will include designing and developing the software to control our CORIO® video processing engine, video encoders & decoders and design of user interfaces for our latest HD video processing products.

Key Skill Set:

- Multi-threading & Multi-tasking software design skills
- Very Strong C programming for embedded systems
- Comfortable with software and hardware debugging
- Experience of 32 Bit Micro processors in embedded product design

To apply contact:

Amanda Mallett, TV One Ltd. Unit V, Continental Approach,

Westwood Industrial Estate, Margate, Kent. CT9 4JG

Tel: 01843 873300 • Fax: 01843 873301

Email: recruit.europe@tvone.com

www.tvone.eu

Operating in the drug & alcohol and mental health sectors, KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people.



REF: 483 CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKER (YOS) DOVER, FOLKESTONE & ASHFORD

37 hours per week

SCP 26 – 31 £21,412 - £25,320 (pay award pending)
Essential Car User Allowance

KCA Young Persons' Service delivers specialist, young person-centred drug and alcohol services to those aged 10 – 17. It provides advice, information, support and prevention initiatives, ongoing casework and intensive interventions.

We have been commissioned since 2005 to provide substance misuse services to the Kent Youth Offending Service. This post will cover the Dover, Folkestone and Ashford areas, offering assessment and ongoing casework to young offenders referred by the Young Offender Teams in those areas.

We are looking for an outgoing, self-motivated, committed person with a good knowledge of drug/alcohol issues, who can demonstrate the ability to work creatively and effectively with young offenders. Previous experience of working with young offenders is essential.

Previous applicants need not apply.

For application forms and further information, contact: KCA (UK), Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Telephone 01795 590635, Fax 01795 539351, Email recruitment@kca.org.uk, www.kca.org.uk.

Closing Date: 25th July 2008

Interview Date: To be arranged

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.
Charity No: 292824



Store Management

Throughout the South East of England

For our store management team we offer a structured training programme where you will start by learning from and working with experienced managers. We'll give you responsibility from day one and help you expand your commercial know-how, people development and leadership skills. Good managers are the engines behind our stores and with our guidance and your enthusiasm we will make you a success.

The Role

As a Store Manager you will be expected to be a motivator and have a practical hands on approach to store operations. You will achieve excellent customer satisfaction and store performance by leading, guiding and managing your team. You will be responsible for maximising the sales within your store along with controlling costs, cash and inventory results.

Your Profile

We expect you to be motivated, proactive, have an eye for detail and previous management experience is desirable. You must possess excellent people skills, a leader who can influence and inspire. Above all we are looking for managers that are determined to achieve great results, be successful and are adaptable to change.

The Rewards

- A market leading salary of up to £36,000pa
- Exclusive benefits package and pension scheme
- Opportunities to move into other management positions

Interested?

Written replies should include a CV and a covering letter detailing leadership potential. Please quote ref: 26373



Applications to:

SM Recruitment

Lidl Ltd

Recruitment Department

19 Worples Road, Wimbleton

London, SW19 4JS

or email to

recruitment@lidl.co.uk



Discover your Potential

Mid-Kent College of Higher & Further Education is one of the largest providers of Further Education in Kent with ambitious plans to build on its existing reputation.

At a time of unprecedented change the College is looking to recruit professionals to help deliver excellence in the following areas:

Lecturer in Travel & Tourism

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

Ref: JU01

An opportunity has arisen for a Lecturer in Travel & Tourism. The main purpose of the role is to deliver and teach on a range of Travel and Tourism courses. You must have a relevant degree, ideally in Tourism and will have or be willing to work towards an appropriate teaching qualification within a specified timeframe. The department will also consider applications from candidates who would prefer part-time hours therefore please specify clearly on your application form.

Lecturer in Engineering

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

Ref: JU02

You will have proven experience in Engineering and be able to teach across a range of levels from Foundation/GCSE to Higher National. The successful candidate will have a HNC or Degree in an Engineering subject. Candidates should hold or be willing to work towards an approved teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Public Services

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

Ref: JU03

We are seeking to recruit a Lecturer to teach on a range of BTEC and school links programmes. The successful candidate will have experience in Public Services and have a recognised teaching qualification. The department will also consider applications from candidates without a teaching qualification although this will be reflected in the grading.

Additional Learning Support Tutor

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

Ref: JU04

The successful candidate will work across all our College campuses and will have a recognised teaching qualification or be working towards an appropriate qualification. The candidate will be able to demonstrate recent, all round experience and knowledge in supporting learners with difficulties.

Lecturer in Plumbing

Salary: £25,092 - £28,719

Ref: JU05

The ideal candidate will have current knowledge and experience of the Building Services Industry and have a relevant trade qualification in plumbing. A recognised teaching qualification would be advantageous.

Technician in Engineering

Support Grade B: £15,057 - £18,534

Ref: JU06

As a member of the Engineering & Construction Crafts team you will undertake all support duties associated with the Engineering workshops as directed by teaching or instructing staff. You will have experience working in an Engineering environment and/or have an HNC in Engineering.

Sessional Lecturers

Ref: JU07
£19.74 to £28.28 per hour including holiday component

The College is currently looking to recruit dynamic and enthusiastic Sessional Lecturers in Health Care, Child Care & Public Services to deliver programmes from foundation to level 3. Previous experience in relevant field essential and teaching experience would be advantageous.

Sessional Lecturer in Psychology

Ref: JU08
£19.74 to £28.28 per hour including holiday component

We are looking to recruit a Sessional Lecturer in Psychology to teach on a range of courses and participate in the development of Psychology. Applicants must have a relevant degree in Psychology.

Information, Advice & Guidance Advisor - Level 4

Salary: £23,669 - £30,027

Ref: JU09

Learner Advisor - Level 3

Salary: £11,599 - £16,199

Ref: JU10

The above posts are an exciting opportunity for you to join our Matrix awarding winning Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) team working across all College Campuses to actively support prospective and current learners to achieve their full academic and personal potential. For further details please refer to job description.

Examinations Assistant

Grade B: £14,618 - £17,994

Ref: JU11

As the main point of contact for at least one Awarding Body you will provide administrative support for examinations in liaison with the examinations co-ordinator. You will have experience using databases and Microsoft Word and Excel.

Learning Support Assistant

Salary: £11,599 - £16,199

Ref: JU12

As a Learning Support Assistant you will support learners with challenging behaviour and learning disabilities. Previous experience would be advantageous.

Caretaker (5 month fixed term contract 20 hours per week)

Salary: £11,599 - £16,199 pro-rata

Ref: JU13

As a member of the Campus Management Team you will help provide a clean and safe environment for users of the College's buildings and grounds and assist in other general campus management duties as required.

Kitchen Assistant

(27 hours per week)
Salary: £12,245 - £13,004 pro-rata

Ref: JU14

We are seeking to recruit a Kitchen Assistant to provide support to both students and Lecturers in the Catering department.

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBL Employment Solutions who support individuals who have a disability or health condition in returning to work. If you would like further information regarding RBL to see if you are eligible for assistance with your application and returning to work then please contact RBL on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbl.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Closing date: Friday, 18 July 2008

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer



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The smart way to find a job in the County

Operating in the drug & alcohol and mental health sectors, KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people.



REF: 497 - DAY PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR - MARGATE

SCP 29-35 £23,749 - £28,172 (pay award pending) - 37 hours

You will work in close collaboration with the Service Manager to ensure the efficient and effective running of the Day Programme service within the locality. You will support the Service Manager in providing a structured Day Programme to DRR and voluntary service users, ensuring that the Day Programme fully meets contractual requirements. Responsibilities include the planning and delivery of group activities and line management of staff. You will help to ensure that the Day Programme is fully integrated with other local and organisation-wide services and will work closely with partner agencies within an agreed strategic framework. You should be committed to the principles and practice of equality of opportunity for service users and staff.

You should have comprehensive experience within the drug & alcohol field, coupled with sound organisational skills, including the ability to plan and prioritise your own workload. You should have experience of working within a groupwork setting and be qualified to diploma level or hold a professional qualification within a relevant field.

For an application form contact KCA (UK) Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Tel: 01795 590635, Fax: 01795 539351, email recruitment@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk.

Closing date: Friday 25th July 2008 at midday
Interview date: Friday 1st August 2008

If you would like to discuss this post further please call Linda Ranger on 01227 781 297

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.
Charity No: 292824



Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Operations in Kent offer vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19 years and adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate, raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancies:

SCHOOLS PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

£21,984 (inc. Labour Market Uplift)

Our 14-16 year old programmes include Key stage 4 Engagement Programme (50/50) and Alternative Curriculum programmes for individual schools. Our programme objectives are to develop and encourage vocational and employability skills which enable young people to re-engage and make positive life choices.

We are looking to engage a highly motivated, organised individual who has empathy with this client group. The post holder will be required to co-ordinate the activities and take responsibility for the Nacro 14-16 year old Alternative Curriculum programmes across Kent and Medway. This post will suit someone who has a background in education and who is keen to ensure that all young people receive the education appropriate to their needs.

KEY SKILLS TRAINER (Maternity Cover)

£17,658 to £19,658 per Annum (inc. Labour Market Uplift)

We work in partnership to deliver our successful Entry to Employment Programme (e2e). This programme is for young people aged 16-18 and requires an enthusiastic, Lively, Creative individual to join our staff team. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take opportunities offered to progress them into further education, training or employment. Experience in employer engagement would be desirable.

This position will be subject to an enhanced CRB check

KEY SKILLS TRAINER (Army Preparation Programme)

£17,658 to £19,658 per Annum (inc. Labour Market Uplift)

We work in partnership to deliver our successful Entry to Employment Programme (e2e). This programme is for young people aged 16-18 and requires an enthusiastic, Lively, Creative individual to join our staff team. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take opportunities offered to progress them into further education, training or employment. Experience in employer engagement would be desirable.

This position will be subject to an enhanced CRB check.

TRAINER (Schools Programmes)

£17,658 to £19,658 (inc. Labour Market Uplift)

We hold the contract to deliver the 50/50 element of the Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme and work in partnership with schools and Local Education Authority to re-engage Key Stage 4 Learners.

You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take up vocational and work related opportunities offered to them through the programme and have an interest in teaching a variety of subjects to young people. Experience of working with challenging behaviour would be an advantage.

This position will be subject to an enhanced CRB check.

SWITCH ON PROJECT MANAGER

£24,535 per annum

Nacro has been awarded an ESF contract to deliver a project for 14-16 year olds across Kent and Medway and Sussex. The project (called Switch On) aims to assist young people's transition into employment and training. You should have experience of managing successful ESF projects, the ability to develop provision and a track record of successful engagement with 14-16 year olds and other stakeholders. Working closely with the Area Manager for Kent and Nacro's Regional Performance team, you will also need to work with partner organisations to ensure the project is effective across the whole area. The post will be based in either Kent and Medway or the Brighton area, is dependent on ESF funding and is currently until 2010.

Please note that this position will be subject to a CRB check.



TIE PROJECT MANAGER

£24,535 per annum

Nacro has been awarded an ESF contract to deliver a personal development and employability project (called TIE) across Kent and Medway and Surrey to 14-19 years olds. The post will be based in Kent and Medway, but will require the post-holder to travel to Surrey on a regular basis. You should have experience of managing successful ESF projects, the ability to develop provision and a track record of successful engagement with 14-19 year olds and other stakeholders. Working closely with the Area Manager for Kent and Nacro's Regional Performance team, you will also need to work with partner organisations to ensure the project is effective across the whole area. The post is dependent of ESF funding and is currently until 2010.

Please note that this position will be subject to a CRB check.



Please contact Hayley Arms on 01634 818305 or hayley.arms@nacro.org.uk for an application pack.

Nacro is an equal opportunities employer and aims to eliminate unfair discrimination in its selection process.

Nacro is a registered Charity No: 226171



Colyer Road
Northfleet, Gravesend
Kent DA11 8BG
Head: John Hassett MA

GRADUATE TEACHER PROGRAMME

Have you, as a graduate, considered becoming a teacher via the GTP route, which currently pays £14,751 during training?

Northfleet Technology College, in collaboration with Canterbury Christ Church University College, is inviting applicants to join the Graduate Teacher Programme from September 2008 in:

• Music • Mathematics

Further details, including an application form, are available from the School's website, www.ntc.kent.sch.uk or from Gill Taylor, e-mail: tgorg@ntc.kent.sch.uk

The closing date for applications is Monday the 28th of July



The Towers School

Faversham Road, Kennington
Ashford, Kent TN24 9AL
Tel: 01233 634171 • Fax: 01233 628326
Email: admin@towers.kent.sch.uk

11-19 Kent High School
1400 Students on roll (320+ in 6th Form)

Teacher / Instructor of Construction Required for September 2008 • Salary negotiable

We are seeking a teacher / instructor with the ability and interest to deliver NVQ / Btec / New diploma qualifications for students aged 14-19 years. We will provide an extremely supportive environment for you to support students in realising their potential.

Why this job might be right for you:-

- Joining a school with a good Ofsted report at all Key Stages including Post 16 education
- Excellent provision for students in Years 10,11,12 and 13
- Purpose built provision for Construction
- Attractive salary and job security
- Guaranteed commitment and opportunities to develop

For an informal visit to the school please contact Justin Davey on 01233 634171 ex 227.

Applications are by CV and covering letter by email on admin@towers.kent.sch.uk, fax on 01233 628326 or post. Please mark for the attention of Mrs Kyla Weedon. All applications should be received by Friday, 18th July 2008.

An internal reorganisation means that we are looking for enthusiastic individuals to complement our existing team in providing planned and responsive ICT support

Junior Technical Support Officer

Salary up to £16,416 pa

You will help provide first line support for all the council's ICT desktop equipment.

Essential skills needed include:

- Strong customer facing and customer care skills including the ability to communicate efficiently by email, telephone and face to face
- Sound knowledge of PC hardware, Microsoft Windows operating systems and Microsoft Office applications
- A knowledge of ITIL guidelines and practices would be an advantage

Web Analyst/Programmer

Salary up to £20,232 pa

To assist with the design and implementation of a wide range of information systems

Essential skills needed include:

- Knowledge of ASP.NET, Visual Basic and .Net framework 2.0
- Experience of working as part of a development team
- Any understanding of project management methods and web interface design would be an advantage.

For an informal discussion please contact,

Rob Neil on 01233 330850

For an application form and further details please contact
Personnel and Development, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane,
Ashford Kent or e-mail recruitment@ashford.gov.uk

Closing date: Monday 4th August 2008

Interviews will be held on:

Junior Technical Support Officer

26th August 2008

Web Analyst/Programmer

27th August 2008



Listening, Learning, Leading



PUBLIC NOTICE

LARKFIELD PRIORY HOTEL LIMITED
(Company Number 05978916)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named Company will be held at The Village Hotel, Castle View, Forstall Road, Sandling, Maidstone, Kent ME14 4EQ, on 23 July 2008, at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

A list of names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Leonard Curtis, Regent House, Bath Avenue, Wolverhampton, WV1 4EG, between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the meeting of creditors.

Dated: 8 July 2008
Ashok Sharma, Director

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BUSINESS BRIEFS

Marketing man to lead young entrepreneurs

KENT Association for Young Entrepreneurs has appointed a new chairman.

The only organisation of its kind in the country committed to helping the county's young entrepreneurs, it has appointed David Ing to the role. He is managing director of Maidstone-based CFA Marketing Communications.

It follows a three-year involvement with the organisation, which is supported by the Kent branch of the Institute of Directors.

He takes over from Jo Ostermeyer, of chartered accountants Creaseys LLP.

Travel firms moves into luxury with takeover

MAIDSTONE-based Medway Travel is celebrating its 15th year in business by expanding into a rapidly growing niche area for luxury holidays.

It has just taken over the Wellbeing Holidays International brand by merging tour operator Pegasus Luxury Travel into its business.

Pegasus's Geoff Davies, who set up the travel firm in 1997, approached Medway Travel and asked if it would like to work with him.

Paul Julius, of Medway Travel, saw it as a way of meeting increasing demands from customers for luxury holidays.

Eco merchant in line for green leader award

AN ECO-FRIENDLY building and decorating materials supplier is in the running for a top green business award.

Ecomerchant, based in Goodnestone, near Canterbury, has been selected as one of the top 40 environment-friendly businesses in this year's Barclays Commercial Bank Green Leaders in Business Awards.

The company was founded ten years ago by Joe Wild after he discovered how difficult it was to source such materials.

It will now bid to be crowned the National Green Leader in Business in the medium business category.

There's a new face at chamber's helm

Director Jo takes on Kent Invicta chief executive role

■ BY TONY PATEY

IT'S all change at the top of one of the county's biggest business support organisations, after Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce appointed a new chief executive.

Chris Capron has stepped down from the role because of long-term illness and been replaced by Jo James.

Mr Capron has been at the helm of the chamber for the past nine years, successfully guiding it through an era of expansion.

He built it from the Ashford Chamber of Commerce to become Kent Invicta Chamber, which covers the areas of Ashford, Canterbury, Maidstone and west Kent, with offices in Ashford and Maidstone.

As the largest chamber in the county – and now one of the largest in the South East – Kent Invicta has an active membership of 1,200 businesses.

Graham Galpin, the chamber's chairman, said: "It has been a pleasure and an honour to work with Mr Capron, to whom we owe so much."

"He has placed the chamber in an enviable position and one of great strength."

"Since he has been recovering from surgery in November, Mrs James, the chamber's director of

membership services, has taken on the role as acting chief executive and has done an excellent job in keeping it moving forward in this difficult interim period.

"Having worked for the chamber since 1989, Mrs James has been involved in all aspects of the chamber's activities and has been at the forefront of many of its developments and achievements over this period."

"Her enthusiasm and experience will ensure that it continues to grow and develop for the benefit of the membership. I have no doubt it will continue to move forward under her capable guidance."

Mrs James said: "I am, of course, thrilled and proud to take on the chief executive role and will continue to work for its benefit, as well as for the members and the business community as a whole."

"Naturally, I hope to inject into the position my own philosophies, and there are likely to be some changes because of that."

"I see my role very much as a guide, helping the board and the staff to find the best way to develop the chamber to the benefit of the members and the community."

To find out more about the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, you can email info@kentinvictachamber.co.uk, phone 01233 503838, or visit www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk.



TOP JOB: Jo James has been appointed chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce after Chris Capron resigned because of ill-health, after helping its expansion

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Cowdrey proves Yalding's downfall

COWDREY proved too strong for Yalding 1st XI as they slumped to a 65 run defeat in Kent Cricket Feeder League 1A.

The Tonbridge side opened the batting and Yalding restricted them to 140 all out. With a modest total to overhaul, Yalding had a good chance of recording their fifth victory of the season.

However, Cowdrey's bowling attack was clinical and Yalding were bowled out for just 75.

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Gills boss Mark Stimson talks about his side's busy pre-season schedule

De Lucy in the runs as The Mote gun for promotion

A HALF century from Ed De Lucy proved the difference as The Mote won a tight game against Broadstairs by two wickets in the final over.

The hosts won the toss and elected to bowl, making a breakthrough early on with the dismissal of Broadstairs opener David Cooper.

Ben Futter (23) and Craig Wretham (20) made decent starts to their innings but both fell to The Mote skipper Glen Aukett before they could make significant contributions.

It was a familiar theme for Broadstairs, with Scott Narraway top scoring with only 33 as Broadstairs reached 161-9 when their overs ran out.

CRICKET

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

The Mote made a bright start to their reply but again found runs hard to come by. Tom Harvey and De Lucy combined well to put the home side on top, with the latter making it to 54 before he was trapped lbw by Narraway.

Three wickets from Ashley Ellison kept Broadstairs in the match before The Mote stumbled across the winning line with just two balls remaining.

Victory kept The Mote's promotion hopes alive as they rose to third place, while defeat meant Broadstairs stay in the bottom two, ten points from safety.



TIGHT: The Mote (bowling) scraped to a narrow victory against Broadstairs

Kent Cricket League Division One

The Mote CC 1st XI v Broadstairs CC 1st XI

Broadstairs

	Runs
Ben Futter lbw b Aukett	23
David Cooper ct Marriott b Waters	4
Craig Wretham lbw b Aukett	20
Neil Brennan c & b Bell	17
Scott Narraway run out	33
Andrew Bailey b Harvey	6
Alex Hogben ct Waters b Harvey	8
Liam Narraway not out	17
Chris Kidd b Bell	10
Andrew Marshall lbw b Bell	2
Ashley Ellison not out	1
Extras (3b 9lb 8w) 20	
Total (9 wickets, 50 overs)	161

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Chris Back	7	2	24	0
Laurence Waters	4	1	14	1
Glen Aukett	13	6	19	2
Tom Harvey	15	1	59	2
Christopher Bell	11	2	33	3

The Mote

	Runs
Chris Back lbw b Marshall	11
Tom Harvey ct Futter b Waters	31
James Marriott lbw b Marshall	3
Ed De Lucy lbw b Narraway	54
Laurence Waters ct Narraway b Ellison	19
Warren Jackson ct Brennan b Ellison	11
Glen Aukett ct Bailey b Ellison	11
Kraig Corke ct Brennan b Ellison	2
Nathan Chapman not out	1
Christopher Bell not out	1
Extras (2b 8lb 5w) 15	
Total (8 wickets, 49.4 overs)	164

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Chris Kidd	15	4	23	1
Andrew Marshall	15	1	31	2
Ashley Ellison	10	1	52	3
Scott Narraway	94	1	43	2

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT CRICKET LEAGUE DIVISION 5

Offham 1st XI v Bapchild 1st XI

OFFHAM salvaged a draw as Bapchild were in impressive form with the bat as Ben Fulton hit a century.

The home side elected to bowl which proved to be a bad decision. Openers Matthew Roche (39) and Lincoln Bryden (33) set up Bapchild for a solid innings.

Offham's bowling attack proved unable to penetrate with Fulton grabbing a century and Adam Larking hitting an unbeaten half century to leave Bapchild on 238-3 from their 50 overs.

Tom Gittings top scored for Offham in reply with 38, but his side were forced to hold out for a draw, finishing on 140-8.

Bapchild

	Runs
Matthew Roche	39
Lincoln Bryden	33
Ben Fulton	103
Alan Hampton	2
Adam Larking	50
John Heatley	did not bat
Ricky Dale	did not bat
Henry Fairweather	did not bat
Ian Marsh	did not bat
Andrew Triggwell	did not bat
Nicholas Page	did not bat

Extras (6b 4lb 1nb) 11
Total (3 wickets, 50 overs) 238

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Simon Hallbrook	8	0	49	0
Andy Cox	7	3	15	0
Tony Rajaratnam	15	0	54	3
Graham Razez	15	0	46	0
Ben Gittings	2	0	19	0
Andrew Prescott	3	0	46	0

Offham

	Runs
Tony Rajaratnam	10
Tom Gittings	38
Ben Gittings	20
Lawrence Bell	16
Jason Waitt	11
Adam Kent	0
ct Heatley b Roche	0
Andy Cox	8
Graham Razez	0
Andrew Prescott	25
Lewis Waitt	0
Simon Hallbrook	0
Extras (4b 2lb 4w 1nb) 11	
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	140

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Ian Marsh	11	3	31	1
Adam Larking	14	4	43	1
Alan Hampton	9	3	24	1
Matthew Roche	13	7	21	4
Lincoln Bryden	3	0	15	1

KENT CRICKET FEEDER LEAGUE WEST DIVISION 2B

Catford and Cyphers 3rd XI v Highways 1st XI

CATFORD and Cyphers hung on to claim a narrow single wicket victory against Highways on Saturday.

The home side won the toss and elected to bowl. It proved to be a good decision with John-Joseph Fogarty the pick of the bowlers, claiming four wickets to restrict Highways to just 153.

Fogarty took the first wicket of Zaid Khan for a duck as Highways' openers struggled to 43-3. Mark Cowan and Janaka Kerr steadied the innings with a 35 and 27, but it was not enough. Despite three wickets from Lee Thompson and Kishan Patel Catford secured victory.

Highways

	Runs
Zaid Khan	0
Inderpreet Lali	14
Steve Sandhu	15
Zafraz Raja	14
Mark Cowan	35
Janaka Kerr	27
Aman Ullah	0
Harj Mander	18
Amir Dave	3
Lee Thompson	0
Kishan Patel	0

Extras (1b 5lb 7w 14nb) 27
Total (all out, 45.4 overs) 153

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
John-Joseph Fogarty	12	3	32	4
Kashif Khan	9	3	28	0
Dipak Patel	4	0	19	0
Graham Dyson	10	3	23	2
Ansah Mahmood	8	0	35	1
Yashodhar Rangineni	24	1	9	2

Catford and Cyphers

	Runs
Richard McCaughin	23
Ansah Mahmood	18
John-Joseph Fogarty	50
Ramesh Desilva	2
Abdul Imthiyas	4
Shehan Sharier	8
Yashodhar Rangineni	6
Darshan Patel	26
Kashif Khan	4
Dipak Patel	2
Graham Dyson	0

Extras (3b 4lb 1w 3nb) 11
Total (9 wickets, 45 overs) 154

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Lee Thompson	12	2	38	3
Amir Dave	12	0	40	0
Aman Ullah	11	1	30	2
Kishan Patel	10	2	39	3

KENT CRICKET LEAGUE DIVISION 1 2ND XI

Broadstairs 2nd XI v The Mote 2nd XI

AN UNBEATEN 60 from Matthew White helped The Mote secure a five wicket victory at Broadstairs. The hosts batted first and started slowly losing their openers early on, but recovered through Bradley Ellison who hit 60.

The Mote bowlers, White and Richard Usher, restricted Broadstairs to 136, taking three wickets apiece.

In reply, The Mote made a positive start through White as he hit a half century, but only three of their other batsmen made double figures.

Once Simon Higgins (27) had been bowled by Ben Warden it was left to Richard Coles to hit the winning runs.

Broadstairs

	Runs
Linton Denning	9
Paul McNally	60
Bradley Ellison	60
Sam Winsor	15
Jake Benfield	4
Oliver Robinson	23
Thiyan Padialack	9
Arthur Austin	0
Robin Putney	0
Paul Ogburn	0
Ben Warden	0
Extras (5b 7lb 4w)	16
Total (8 wickets, 50 overs)	136

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Danny Rowe	13	6	19	0
Richard Usher	10	4	27	3
Matthew White	12	4	27	3
James Rowe	5	1	9	0
Richard Coles	10	1	42	0

The Mote

	Runs
Andrew Barr	1
Matthew White	60
Howard Watkin	0
Alan Barr	21
Jason Dunk	2
Simon Higgins	27
Richard Coles	9
Chris Coles	0
James Rowe	0
Danny Rowe	0
Richard Usher	0
Extras (2lb 7w)	9
Total (5 wickets, 45.3 overs)	137

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Robin Putney	11	2	21	0
Bradley Ellison	10	1	31	2
Arthur Austin	12	3	29	0
Oliver Robinson	10	2	35	1
Ben Warden	23	0	19	1

KENT CRICKET FEEDER LEAGUE EAST 2C

Yalding 2nd XI v Sandwich Town 4th XI

FOUR wickets from Jerry Smith and Jamie Davies caused Yalding problems as they fell to a 17-run defeat.

Sandwich Town elected to bat first and they did not really get started until Davies came to the crease.

Yalding's bowling attack of James Fenn, Parminder Heer and Davinder Aujla ripped through the top order with Heer finishing with figures of 4-23, and Fenn taking three wickets.

However, once Alistair Ratcliff was dismissed for 28 and Aujla for 29, Sandwich's bowling attack proved superior bowling Yalding out for 102 inside 23 overs.

Sandwich Town

	Runs
Paul Isles	0
Sid Martin	3
Gary Burgess	14
Jerry Smith	5
Jamie Davies	20
Steve Burgess	11
Ben Thurgate	6
Kevin Burgess	0
Peter van Poppel	39
Greg Martin	1
Daniel Levey	0
Extras (4b 4lb 9w 1nb)	20
Total (all out, 38.3 overs)	119

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
James Fenn	9.3	4	26	3
Rajpreet Aujla	5	0	13	0
Davinder Aujla	7	2	24	2
Parminder Heer	10	3	23	4
Jonathan Fenn	7	2	20	1

Yalding

	Runs
Alistair Ratcliff	28
Satwinder Aujla	0
Davinder Aujla	29
Samuel Wing	2
Joel Shopland	0
James Fenn	12
Esmond Brown	10
Jonathan Fenn	0
Parminder Heer	4
Rajpreet Aujla	0
Joshua Brooks	0
Extras (4b 13w)	17
Total (all out, 23.1 overs)	102

Bowlers	0	M	R	W
Gary Burgess	3	0	21	1
Jerry Smith	10	2	27	4
Peter van Poppel	3	1	16	1
Jamie Davies	6.1	1	29	4
Daniel Levey	1	0	7	0

Stones still searching for a main sponsor

FOOTBALL

BY TOM HOWARD

MAIDSTONE United chairman Paul Bowden-Brown has admitted the club may have to run without a main sponsor when the new season begins next month.

With just weeks remaining to the new season, the club has been unsuccessful so far in attracting a new sponsor. Maidstone double glazing company Britelite Windows ended its two-year deal with the Stones at the end of last season.

Bowden-Brown has revealed companies have been interested, but a deal has not come to fruition.

He told yourmaidstone: "We still do not have a main sponsor at the moment. We have some interest but no one has really come forward. We have just got to keep going using all our contacts to try and attract a sponsor quickly with the season just weeks away."

"If we do not have a sponsor by the start of the season, then we will have to go into the season without one, leaving the shirts blank. It has been a difficult time for everyone at the moment because of the credit crunch."

The chairman is backing his two managers, Lloyd Hume and Alan Walker, to end their striker search. Trialist and former Welling United striker Lloyd Blackman continued to train with the squad in Mote Park last week



SEARCHING: Maidstone United chairman Paul Bowden-Brown is still looking for a main sponsor for the club's second season in the Ryman Premier League

and may sign if he impresses in pre-season.

Bowden-Brown added: "I have left the striker hunt to Alan and Lloyd they know what the team needs. I will be backing them to bring someone in."

"They have told me that they have a couple

of trialists in and if they impress during pre season then we will go from there."

Maidstone United were in action in their first pre-season friendly against Great Wakering Rovers yesterday. For the result log on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Open debut has young amateur in dream land

GOLF

AMATEUR golfer Tom Sherreard will step into the unknown as he battles against the likes of Sergio Garcia, Phil Mickleson and defending champion Padraig Harrington at the 137th Open Championship at Royal Birkdale tomorrow.

The 20-year-old, who began his career at The Ridge Golf Club, near Maidstone, turned heads in the local qualifying final at Southport and Ainslie last week. His final score of three under par secured the all-important place in the Royal Birkdale field.

The amateur was overwhelmed with his triumph and is in shock at what he has achieved.

Sherreard said: "I still cannot believe it really. I was so surprised to have qualified for one of the biggest tournaments in the world. It really is a dream come true."

"It is going to be daunting at Royal Birkdale. There will be a lot of expectation on me as I have qualified for the tournament, but I will just play my game and see what happens."

He revealed that out of all the golfers at the tournament, he



DREAM: Tom Sherreard cannot wait to begin his first Open at Royal Birkdale

would most like to meet Justin Rose, who burst on to the golf scene at Royal Birkdale ten years ago in The Open Championship.

He added: "It would be great to talk to Justin about how he dealt with playing golf at such a young age and I would be able to learn from that."

Sherreard will tee off in the first round tomorrow.

To follow his progress, log on to www.yourmaidstone.co.uk.

Wilkin airs his best form in Chatham snow round

SNOWBOARDING

SNOWBOARDER Callum Wilkin scooped the top prize in the men's Big Air competition in the Chatham round of the British Snow Tour.

Grove Green-based Wilkin was up against some of the country's best snowboarders at the event competing in both the Big Air and Slopestyle competitions.

The Big Air event, which involves riders racing down the dry ski slope and performing their best tricks off a ten metre jump, kicked off the championships.

After three runs Wilkin managed to successfully land a variety of 540 and 360 rotation jumps which eventually secured him the top spot.

The entrants then fought it out for the main event – the Slopestyle Championships which count towards the British title.

Boarders were judged on the tricks they perform as they make their way down a course featuring a kink rail shipped in from a snowpark in the United States, and a 60ft battleship box.

Competition was fierce with only the top eight men making it



FLYING HIGH: Callum Wilkin claimed two medals including a first place in the Big Air competition

through to the final.

Wilkin secured his place in the final and set about trying to secure his second medal in the competition. On his all-important run he pulled off a front flip off the jump, which was good enough to secure second place behind Bradford's Jamie Nicholls. Chatham's Cody Hierons took the final podium position in third.

The Snow Tour moves on to Norfolk this weekend for the third event in the six round competition.



BIG INNINGS: Darren Stevens hit Bears for six

Bear tamer Stevens helps Spitfires into Twenty20 finals day

CRICKET

DARREN Stevens inspired Kent to victory over the Warwickshire Bears to help them reach Twenty20 finals day for the second year in succession.

The Spitfires could be the first team to claim back-to-back Twenty20 titles after they beat the Bears convincingly by 42 runs at Edgbaston last Thursday.

Stevens helped his side recover from 60-4 to reach 175-6, a total that proved too much for the home team.

The former Leicestershire all-rounder clubbed 69 from 32 balls which included six fours and five sixes and was ably supported at the end by power hitter Azhar Mahmood. The Pakistani all-rounder smashed an unbeaten 25 from 13 balls to help take the game away from the Bears.

In reply, Warwickshire struggled and when Twenty20 specialist Darren Maddy was out with score at 78-5, all hope was lost for the home side.

Arafat took 3-29 while Stevens capped a man-of-the-match display after finishing with figures of 2-29, as Warwickshire ended on 133-8.

Key acknowledged Stevens' innings had turned the game in his side's favour.

He said after the game: "Darren Stevens played a serious innings. I thought 130 would mean we were in the game but 175 was always going to be too many."

Kent will play Essex Eagles in the semi-final at the Rose Bowl on July 26, with Middlesex playing either Durham or Nottinghamshire in the other match.

Although Kent will probably be the favourites, Key is not getting carried away.

He said: "With Twenty20 it depends on who pitches up on the day. We've got two more games to win but we're not in the final yet."

"The good thing is we've still got players to come good who haven't played as well as they can in Twenty20."

If Kent win the semi-final they will automatically be entered in September's Champions League against teams from around the world for a chance to win £2.4 million.

However, the England and Wales Cricket Board are yet to decide on whether teams that field players from the Indian Cricket League – such as Kent's Azhar Mahmood and Justin Kemp – will be allowed to feature.

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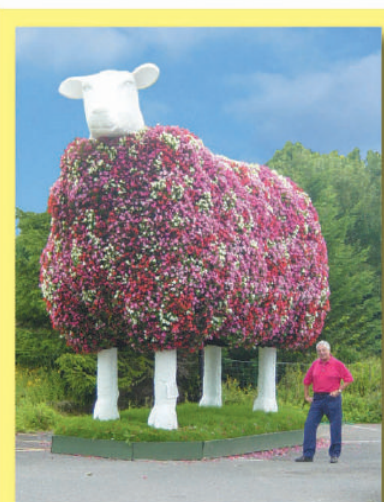
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